

Peace move in firemen's strike beaten by 14 to 1

The executive of the Fire Brigades Union yesterday rejected by 14 votes to one a call by moderates for a special delegate conference aimed at calling off the firemen's strike. The union will meet the Government and employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the strike began.

First tripartite talks planned next week

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The Fire Brigades Union executive voted 14 to one yesterday against recalling the national delegate conference that also can end the firemen's seven-week strike. One executive member was absent.

The union will ask the TUC General Council to convene a congress to challenge the way the Government is interpreting the TUC's policy for an orderly return to free collective bargaining. Leaders of the FBUE are heartened by the narrow margin of 20 votes to 17 by which the general council rejected a call for a national campaign against the Government's policy for limiting earnings increases to a tenth.

The union is to meet the Government and the local authority employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the stoppage began. It will reassert its willingness to forgo the employers' offer for a reduced working week from next November in return for more money now. In any case, the union believes it would be virtually impossible, because of training difficulties, to increase manpower by the necessary five thousand men in time.

The original target for a pay rise of three tenths remains on the table but in the face of the Government's determination and the TUC's unwillingness to support the men, the figure is no longer regarded as inalienable.

The union will be looking for some movement from the employers and the Government on the timing of an award which has been offered. That would give rise to a two-stage increase in 1978 and 1979, to take their pay up to the average skilled industrial worker's wage.

Mr Terence Parry, FBUE general secretary, said after the seven-hour executive meeting in London last night: "We do not want to prolong the strike any longer than it has to be. The best step now is to get in the same room as the Government and the employers. Although constitutionally the Government is not involved in local authority negotiations, it is never far away."

Reports from the union's 14 regions yesterday left no doubt

that the strike is still solid. Mr David Shephard, who represents 3,000 firemen in the South-east, was the only one of the 16 executive members who voted yesterday to recall a delegate conference.

He said afterwards that he was confident there would not be a unilateral return to work among members in the South-east. "I am fairly confident that I can convince the members that it is important to continue the strike," he said.

Many executive members were clearly angered by earlier remarks in which he said he would find it difficult to prevent a drift back to work unless the delegate conference was recalled.

The call for a reconvened TUC conference was put to the FBUE executive meeting by Mr John Lewis, the London firemen's leader. The union wants the congress to reaffirm a composite motion approved in September calling for an immediate return to free collective bargaining. Mr Lewis said yesterday that he believed the general council was wrong in not supporting the FBUE in a campaign against the 10 per cent guideline.

The TUC General Council next meets on January 25. It will consider a request from Mr Parry, who is a member of the council, to recall congress. Among his supporters will be the train drivers, musicians, tobacco workers, teachers, white-collar engineering workers, and the Association of General Staffs.

Mr Brian Rushbridge, secretary of the employers' negotiators, will meet Mr Parry today for a report of the executive meeting. He said last night: "Since the employers have followed up every suggestion that has been made, and in view of the fact that the strike has been going on for seven weeks, we must take the tripartite meeting seriously."

Nobody is planning much hope on next week's talks. The Government has shown no sign of yielding on the 10 per cent ruling and there is no indication of a substantial shift of ground by the union.

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Healey hint on next stage of pay policy

By Michael Haffield
Political Reporter

Cabinet ministers will begin the new year with early discussions among themselves about the next stage of pay policy after the ending of phase three and the 12-month rule.

It was being emphasised last night that no conclusions are likely until March, at the earliest, after which formal discussions with the unions will have to be opened.

A hint of what the Government has in mind is given by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, in an interview in the latest issue of *Socialist Commentary*. He states that the Government has a duty to give "the country some idea of the aggregate increase in earnings compatible with growth and keeping inflation under control."

"What would be desirable would be that the unions and employers negotiated a package that aggregate on the distribution of increases." The Government's view, although they differed on implementation, he said.

Mr Healey said he would welcome talks within the unions and the employers' organizations on the best way for Britain to tackle the matter.

The Government cannot move too early on the next stage of pay policy, he said, because it must first initiate unacceptable wage demands, which are still being negotiated under the present phase. For that reason there have been informal discussions inside the Cabinet's economic strategy committee. They are likely to continue for some weeks as it monitors the present pay round.

Cabinet ministers do not as yet see eye to eye on whether there should be a phase four, although Mr Healey, the Prime Minister, has made it known publicly that he is antipathetic to free collective bargaining.

While a further phase is expected, the argument among Cabinet ministers will revolve round its nature. Mr Healey, in his interview, said that more and more people are coming to realize that no government can avoid having an incomes policy so far as its own employees are concerned.

It must have an attitude about what is the appropriate level of wage increases in the various parts of the public sector where it is either employer or paymaster. But, of course, to have a pay policy for the public sector, and in the private sector can be very unfair to the public sector.

On the firemen's case, Mr Healey says that what the Government had offered would be based on a form of comparability, and that could be in many parts of the public sector.

"To the extent that this is becoming inevitable, it is moving us perhaps more rapidly than we foresaw towards a more general policy in the public sector, and raising the question of how that deals with the problems of the private sector."

Mr Callaghan considers new plan for Treasury's role

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister is considering a plan that could resolve the year-long debate about the future of the Treasury and the Civil Service Department. Mr Callaghan is attracted by the possibility of linking the two ministries through a common establishment organization.

Such a move would achieve many of his objectives without incurring the disruption of the Prime Minister is at pains to avoid in the run-up to a general election. The concept of a Treasury-CSD "condominium", as it is known in Whitehall, is a late addition to the options put before Mr Callaghan by his officials as he considers what to do with the Treasury and the Civil Service.

Under the condominium scheme, Sir Ian Bancroft, as Head of the Home Civil Service, would report to a general election. The concept of a Treasury-CSD "condominium", as it is known in Whitehall, is a late addition to the options put before Mr Callaghan by his officials as he considers what to do with the Treasury and the Civil Service.

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A new plan to link the Treasury with the Civil Service Department in a "condominium" has been put to the Prime Minister. Under it Sir Douglas Wass (left) would remain responsible for overall management of the economy and Sir Ian Bancroft (right) would run the Civil Service and make senior appointments. There would be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments.



There would, however, be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments and closer cooperation over policy making in areas of joint concern. In particular, Treasury management of public spending would be linked more closely with CSD control of manpower.

Cooperation would also extend to other areas, such as Civil Service pay and management services. Mr Callaghan has been concerned with the CSD's lack of impact in Whitehall, a deficiency for which it was also criticized by the expenditure committee. He is thought to believe that a closer liaison with the Treasury and an infusion of Treasury staff, would buttress its influence in dealing with other departments.

The two ministries, if the scheme was adopted, would have a joint strength of 6,388 officials: 1,143 drawn from the Treasury and 5,145 from the CSD. A deputy secretary would probably be appointed to lead a common establishment division. Sir Ian and Sir Douglas, who get on well as former colleagues in the Treasury before it was split with the foundation of the CSD in 1968, would become involved in the day-to-day running of the new arrangement only in cases of exceptional difficulty.

The "common services" approach to departmental management was invented in March 1974, by Sir Antony Part, when they were instructed by the incoming Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, to look up the huge Department of Trade and Industry into three separate ministries.

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US rebuff to Palestine state annoys Mr Sadat

By Our Foreign Staff

President Sadat said yesterday that he was "disappointed" with President Carter's statement on Wednesday night, indicating that he preferred limited autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza rather than the creation of a separate Palestinian state, demanded by Egypt and other Arab countries.

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that Mr Carter's remarks would help the negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement and that the Israelis felt a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan would threaten their security. The Israeli peace plan, disclosed to the Knesset on Wednesday, offers limited self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with television network correspondents broadcast in the United States on Wednesday night, Mr Carter said that Mr Begin had taken a "long step forward" in offering self-rule to the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Carter repeated his own preference for a Palestinian homeland or entity, probably linked to Jordan, rather than a personal preference is that permanent peace can best be maintained if there is not a fairly radical new independent nation in the heart of the Middle East.

He believed there was considerable room for bargaining by President Sadat within Mr Begin's tentative proposals for the West Bank. The number of Israeli military outposts, the length of time the initial agreement would be in force and the exact relationship of the West Bank towards Israel and Jordan were all open for discussion.

The President said that during his current overseas trip he would be exploring with King Hussein the role Jordan was willing to play in a peace settlement. Jordan, he said, was not yet participating in the



New Year Tour: President Carter waving goodbye as he sets off for Poland on the first leg of his nine-day trip. On arrival in Warsaw yesterday he was welcomed by Mr Czerwinski, the Polish Communist leader. He will then travel on to Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, France and Belgium. In Warsaw, Poland's dissident Public Self-Defence Committee issued a statement saying it welcomed Mr Carter's visit because of the President's support for human and civil rights.

Both Mr Begin and President Sadat were to be congratulated for their "bold and courageous" actions in seeking an overall peace settlement. Even though there were still disagreements there was no reason to be discouraged about the outlook for further negotiations.

The American role in the peace process was to be supportive, Mr Carter said, to try to resolve difficulties when they arose and to give advice and counsel when it was requested. The progress that had been made in recent weeks was "remarkable" and was greater than even he had anticipated.

Asked how he thought Palestinian demands for rights on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mr Carter repeated his own preference for a Palestinian homeland or entity, probably linked to Jordan, rather than a personal preference is that permanent peace can best be maintained if there is not a fairly radical new independent nation in the heart of the Middle East.

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Deadlock in Salisbury on votes for whites

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec 29

The assumed Rhodesian settlement talks ended in deadlock in Salisbury tonight after three and a quarter hours of hard bargaining. The Rhodesian Government and the African National Council (ANC) cannot agree on the proportion of white representation in a future parliament under a majority rule government.

When asked after today's meeting whether the positions of the opposing sides could be reconciled, Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, said: "It is always possible to overcome problems. That is what we have, a problem. We must go on until we overcome it."

Asked how long this would take, he replied: "It might be over in one day. It might be over in one year."

Mr Smith looked somewhat dejected whereas the Rev Nicholas Sibiho, leader of a faction of the African National Council—known as the ANC (Sithole)—fairly beamed assurance. When asked to comment on the talks, he said: "Fine, we are having a good go. We are satisfied with the progress."

A source close to the talks said that today's meeting was held once again in a cordial atmosphere but the talks had reached a "sticky" stage. It is understood that Mr Smith is holding out for a third of parliamentary seats to be reserved for whites to give them a blocking mechanism when it comes to voting on constitutional issues. The ANC (Sithole) wants white representation to be restricted to a fifth of the seats. The United African National Council, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, is said to accept the Government's demand for a third of the seats but rejects Mr Smith's idea of separate voters' rolls.

Mr Smith has no objection to separate rolls.

The talks resume on Tuesday.

Finns buy UK planes in £100m barter deal

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

In one of the most unusual deals in the history of the British aircraft industry, British Aerospace yesterday sold 50 Hawk trainer aircraft worth £100m to Finland and undertook to market Finnish products to a similar amount.

British Aerospace has in fact already placed some £30m worth of the offer goods, which include vodka, earth-moving equipment and liquorice sweets, and expects to move the lot within three years.

The goods are being sold through British Aerospace sales offices around the world. "Shifting goods from Finland is now the second highest priority when our salesmen go out to meet customers", an aircraft industry executive said yesterday.

It is expected that most of the offer goods will be sold abroad. They are already finding enthusiastic buyers in North America, but will also find their way to countries where Finnish salesmen have seldom penetrated in the past.

In addition to the items mentioned, the long list includes rubber trade machinery and wood products, gliders, ear protectors, television sets, copper and zinc and prefabricated housing.

The offer deal was an important factor in the choice

Beaches polluted by collision of supertankers

Port Elizabeth, Dec 29—The worst oil pollution ever known off the South African coastline has hit beaches and destroyed marine life up to 250 miles west of here as a result of the collision on December 16 between the two American-owned supertankers, Venzol and Venpet.

Government pollution experts today flew along the coast to examine a slick several miles long lying just beyond the Cape beaches—Agence France-Presse.

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Crashes rise at 'mini' roundabouts

By Our Monitoring Correspondent

The conversion from large to "mini" roundabouts at road junctions has almost doubled the number of accidents, according to a report by the government-supported Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

At roundabouts where the size of the central island has been drastically reduced, accidents increased by 91 per cent, those involving fatal and serious injuries by 200 per cent.

The report says the figures emphasize the need for care in converting the old-style roundabout. In particular, crossing movements must be adequately deflected. The report observes that present design recommendations lay down criteria for achieving that.

But where mini roundabouts have been introduced at junctions previously controlled either by the road priority or by traffic lights, accidents have been markedly reduced.

At junctions where mini roundabouts have replaced traffic lights and serious accidents fell by 62 per cent. At sites formerly subject to priority control there was a 34 per cent drop in all accidents and a 46 per cent reduction in those involving fatal and serious injury.

Laser lighting

The pinnacle above Big Ben will be illuminated by a green argon gas laser beam between dusk and 11 pm during the remainder of the Christmas recess, beginning tomorrow, the Department of the Environment announced yesterday.

Sinn Fein raided

Police raided the headquarters of the Provisional Sinn Fein in Falls Road, Belfast, yesterday and arrested two men. Files, papers and a telex machine were seized from the headquarters less than two weeks ago.

Loser in Scottish miners' ballot resigns position

Mr David Bolton, one of the defeated candidates in the recent ballot for the general secretaryship of the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers, has resigned as vice-president. He is to be replaced by Mr Michael McGahey, the president, about the way the election was conducted.

The winner was Mr Eric Clarke, a Labour councillor on Lothian Regional Council. He received 1,100 more votes than Mr Bolton.

Mr Bolton said yesterday that since 1975 a campaign had been waged against him by other members of the Scottish leader. He said he had been ostracized by them.

"One of the reasons I am resigning is the method in

which the election was carried out, although not prepared to say any more on this at this stage," he said.

He added that until 1975 he was re-elected unopposed as vice-president. Since then, Mr McGahey and Mr William McLean, general secretary until his death earlier this year, had given their support to other candidates.

More than a thousand miners from Scottish collieries, near Dunfermline, Fifeshire, resigned their membership of the union in protest against Mr Bolton's resignation. A petition signed by 35,000 people against coal board plans to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire, will be presented to the Prime Minister soon.

EEC to publish floor prices on steel imports

Minimum prices for some 140 steel imports into the European Community will be announced today. It is believed they will be on average about 7 per cent below the Community's internal guideline prices. Steel companies will be prohibited from aligning prices on cheaper imports, although the competitive edge of foreign suppliers will be less keen than in recent months. Page 15

Korchnoi ultimatum

Viktor Korchnoi, the self-exiled Russian grandmaster, threatened to withdraw from his world chess championship qualifying match against Boris Spassky unless spectators were excluded. Page 4

School discipline

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative spokesman on education, says schools need firmer discipline and higher moral standards to provide for a modern industrial society. Page 2

Dollar falls on news of Fed appointment

The dollar lost ground on foreign exchange markets as dealers reacted to the news that Mr William Miller is to replace Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board at the end of January. Sterling continued to climb, reaching \$1.9275 at one time. Page 15

Paris 'vote rigging'

Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, has accused the Government of attempting to rig the votes of Frenchmen resident abroad. He claims that the blank postal proxy votes of Frenchmen living in Gabon have been handed to a pro-Government organization. Page 3

'Paper tiger' survives

The Equal Opportunities Commission, set up two years ago, has survived some sharp criticism. It has a promising record of achievement on behalf of women despite a gibe about being a "paper tiger". Page 3

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Malta letter bomb kills schoolgirl

The daughter of a doctor has been killed and his wife and son have been injured by a letter bomb in Malta. Dr Edwin Grech's daughter, Karen, was home for Christmas from her school in England. A letter bomb was also sent to another doctor but it did not explode. Page 3

Food: The British herring catch this year was the lowest this century; the price was the highest

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Northern Ireland: Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, says a new year message to the people of the province, says the tide has turned against terrorism

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Spain: Basques suspected of hijacking second van with explosives

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British 'Brookings': The Ford Foundation is considering investing in London in order to studying how government policies work, similar to the one in Washington

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HOME NEWS

'The Good Old Days' becomes longest-running light entertainment show

Music-hall story starts on twenty-fifth year



Mr Barney Colehan (centre), producer of 'The Good Old Days', and Mr Leonard Sachs (second left), its compere, celebrating its anniversary with Ken Dodd (fourth right), regular members of the cast, and Mr Colehan's secretary (second right).

By Kenneth Goshing

Mr Barney Colehan will produce his 25th anniversary edition of *The Good Old Days* tomorrow after *Match of the Day*. Next month he launches the programme on its twenty-fifth year, the longest-running light entertainment show in the world, the BBC says.

Mr Colehan conceived the idea of presenting variety in a true music-hall setting at the City Varieties Theatre, Leeds, beginning with a production in 1952 called *The Story of the Music-Hall*, and following with a series in 1953 which has run without a break every winter since then.

Where Chaplin, Dan Leno and Lily Langtry once trod the boards, there appear before the cameras and audience, dressed

in period costume such modern artists as Ken Dodd, Morecambe and Wise (said 25 guineas on their first appearance), Roy Castle and Dora Bryan.

Leonard Sachs links the acts as the allusive chairman having followed Don Gemmell into the chair after the first couple of shows.

The purists will say there was never a chairman for Edwardian music-hall, but we needed someone to link and introduce the acts, Mr Colehan says.

The acts have changed but not the format, and if it seems anachronistic to have stars of stage, radio and television playing to not merely a few hundred people but millions, he has an answer to that, too.

"I can now use people like

Sandie Shaw and Eartha Kitt, and it doesn't seem strange. It succeeds because you can put Eartha in a setting with a song like 'I was a good little girl, 'til I met you' and it works."

Artists change, so do costs. In the 1950s the whole show could be done on a budget of £700, often less, and the artists collected less than £300 between them. Today it costs £12,000.

Ken Dodd made his first television appearance on the show in 1955, receiving £32 9s 4d. He is emphatic about the value of *The Good Old Days* as a time when theatres are closing up and down the country.

"The theatre owners say they want to close them because they cannot get the artists. Rubbish. It is the other way round:

close down the theatres and you are never going to get the artists. Where are they supposed to learn their trade?"

If the owners do not want them, Mr Dodd says, the theatres should be run by trusts, and that is an area where the Theatres Trust has already shown it will play an important part.

He has played in 20 of the shows. "It is very like a pension scheme: I call it 'Barney's plan'."

Members of the audience are given a guide to what is required in the way of Edwardian costumes, and that is an area where the Theatres Trust has already shown it will play an important part.

Woman who slapped man loses case

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham has ruled that it was gross misconduct for a woman to slap a man on the face. It said yesterday that Mrs Florence Marshall, aged 54, a factory worker, was out of order when she slapped the man after she had lost her temper with him.

The tribunal said her action was against the "charter for employees" operated by the company, BRD Company, of Aldridge, Staffordshire. It agreed with the company that the violence amounted to gross misconduct and that the company did not act unfairly in dismissing Mrs Marshall, of Walsall Road, Heath End, Pelsall.

Mr Stephen Eastwood, giving the tribunal decision in writing, said that the man put down materials with which Mrs Marshall had to work far away for her to reach and she shouted at him. Eastwood said it was argued that the company had not taken into account Mrs Marshall's age and previous good record, but violence among machinery in a crowded factory, and its possible consequence, made it a serious offence.

Terrorist tide has turned, Mr Mason tells Ulster

From Our Correspondent Belfast

The change in security is noted in a new year message from Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to the people of the province yesterday. Bombings were down by three fifths, there were markedly fewer deaths, and a record number of people had been charged and convicted of serious crimes, he said.

"There can be no doubt that the tide has turned against the terrorist," he said. "The Government had killed for ever the myth of economic withdrawal. It was concerned with the quality of life and was determined that there could be no second-class citizens."

"But," Mr Mason continued, "this is not yet enough. The commission of crime is still a major problem and its consequences affect the community."

In the coming year he wished to see progress on economic and social welfare, security, and the political situation. Although he sensed no groundswell for change in the political structures he recognized that greater stability might make people want more say in running their affairs. The pace of political change depended on their willingness

to work together. He was not there to impose solutions.

The coming year would be vital for Northern Ireland. He realized the risk of optimism but believed that many people were cautiously agreeing that the return to normality had begun.

"We must now increase the momentum," he said. "We must brighten up the whole province. We must restore its attraction for the businessman and for the tourist. Northern Ireland had much to offer both."

The resources, men and money will be devoted to it, he went on. "But above all for the people of the province we are getting rid of the misery and unhappiness which has been so much a part of life for far too long."

Belfast blasts: Two bombs exploded in a central Belfast shop at lunchtime yesterday (The Press Association reports). They were in the Kitchen Centre in Peter's Hill but no one was hurt.

The fire they started quickly took hold and burnt out the building. The bombs were planted by two youths who ran out of the shop, shouting a warning.

In brief

Man with garotte discharged

Terence Downey, aged 18, who said he carried a wire garotte in his trouser-rump-up to protect himself and his family from his father, was conditionally discharged for a year at Thames Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Downey, unemployed, of St Vincent Street, Poplar, had been convicted of having the garotte as an offensive weapon and possessing 484mg of cannabis resin.

Skateboarders warned

Skateboarders in Sheffield face prosecution if the persistently defying police warnings to avoid dangerous precincts and subways.

Publisher divorced

The wife of Mr Anthony Francis John Crosthwaite-Eyre, aged 37, the publisher, was granted a decree nisi by consent in London yesterday.

Lampreys return

Lampreys have been removed in the Trent after absence of sixty years near Newark, Nottinghamshire.

WEST EUROPE

Officials planning fraudulent use of postal votes by Frenchmen living abroad, M Mitterrand says

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 29

M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist Party leader, bluntly accused the Government today of making preparations to rig the votes of about a million Frenchmen resident abroad. He claimed at a press conference that the documents already in the possession of his party made it possible to institute proceedings against officials "guilty of electoral fraud."

Although at this stage documentary evidence published in the press points to only one case of fraud, the affair shows signs of developing into a major political scandal. And, if other cases are proven by the courts, they will cast suspicion on the results of the parliamentary elections next March.

In many marginal constituencies the postal proxy votes of Frenchmen resident abroad could be decisive.

The Socialist leader read out the text of a written question to the Prime Minister asking for information about the steps taken by the Government to put an end to this fraud, which, he alleged, was being carried out under cover by the French authorities.

He referred to a confidential telegram, published by the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*, from the French Ambassador to Gabon to the Foreign Ministry at the beginning of this month, informing it of the arrival in Paris of a representative of French residents in the country bearing 1,650 blank postal

proxy votes destined for the headquarters of the Rassemblement des Français de l'Etranger, a Gaullist organization; and of the dispatch a fortnight later of two other batches of blank proxy votes.

"This is nothing more than a racket," M. Mitterrand declared. "It involves the collection through the channel of French embassies and consulates abroad of blank proxy votes, and their distribution among the parties of the government majority and among those constituencies where the results of the municipal elections, last March, showed a parliamentary seat was threatened by the advance of the left."

The trouble goes back to an amendment of the electoral law last July, described by M. Mitterrand as "pregnant with abuses", which eased the formalities of voting by proxy for Frenchmen resident abroad.

Under the previous system, they could only vote by proxy in those municipalities where they were registered as voters through a locally registered voter.

This provoked the complaint that Frenchmen abroad were treated as second class citizens.

Under the new law, they can register as a voter in any municipality with a population of over 30,000 and give their proxy vote to another person already registered in that municipality. But the number of such proxy votes is limited to two per cent of the total number of registered voters.

The publication of the telegram from the French Amb-

sador in Libreville provoked an embarrassed reaction from the Quai d'Orsay, the French Ministry, yesterday, and another statement today, emphasizing that an official mission of investigation had already been sent out to Gabon.

The statement said the ministry was taking a very serious view of the abuse of consular privileges through the issue of blank proxy votes. "Any irregularities that might have occurred in Gabon in no way justify doubt being cast on the neutrality of Foreign Ministry officials", it added.

M. Mitterrand said the complete dossier on similar irregularities would be published by the Socialist Party after the closing of electoral registers on December 31.

But he recalled that M. Gaston Defferre, the leader of the Socialist parliamentary party, had at the close of the parliamentary session protested against a circular sent by a government party to French residents in the Ivory Coast calling on them to "vote usefully".

They were urged to register in a constituency of Marseilles, and one of Montpellier, where the Socialist candidates were elected by margins of 1,600 and 900 votes respectively.

Where postal proxy votes could easily tip the scales in favour of the Government majority. The Socialist claim is not that the government parties obtained the votes of French residents abroad but that this is being done in favour of the majority with the connivance of the French authorities, both abroad and at home.

France buys papers of Napoleon's brother

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 29

The French National Archives have just acquired the private archives of Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain and brother of Napoleon, which were seized by British troops in the king's travelling carriage at the battle of Vitoria in 1813.

The archives were sold by the eighth Duke of Wellington to the French National Archives last month after negotiations lasting almost a year, for 1,100,000 francs (about £122,000).

King Joseph's archives have not been hitherto used by historians. They are expected to shed light on the government of Spain under Napoleon, on the relations between Napoleon and his brother, and on the peninsular war from the French standpoint as well as on the kingdom of Spain, which Joseph Bonaparte ruled until 1808.

The collection consists of 37 box files captured at Vitoria, and a black canteen which contains letters from the king and other dignitaries to Napoleon, intercepted by the British forces or by Spanish insurgents and never read by the addressee. King Joseph took his archives with him when he travelled, regarding Madrid as unsafe.

King Joseph, particularly in a letter dated 1813, is remarkably clear minded about the situation of the French in Spain. He states that if Madrid is lost, the whole edifice of French rule will collapse. He also states his difficulties with his marshals, especially Soult.

The collection includes also the rolls of the *Grand Army* in Spain, and a large number of documents on the financing of French troops. There are no diplomatic papers as King Joseph did not have a diplomacy of his own. Relations with foreign countries were run centrally from Paris.

Sisters born in concentration camp reunited

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Dec 29

Two sisters born in 1940 and 1941 respectively and separated soon afterwards have found each other with the help of the International Red Cross search service for missing persons.

Both Frau Irmingard Marmaras and Frau Gertrud Henning spent the past 30 years in the Cologne area without knowing of each other.

They were born in a concentration camp in East Prussia to which their parents had been sent for helping Jews. They were taken away from the parents and entrusted to different people who fled from East Prussia to West Germany in 1945 and 1946 respectively.

Last year the younger of the two wrote to the Red Cross inquiring about her sister.

Letter bomb kills daughter of doctor in Malta

From Our Correspondent Valletta, Dec 29

Flags were flying at halfmast on Government buildings here today in mourning for a fifteen-year-old girl killed by a letter bomb.

The bomb was addressed to Dr Edwin Grech, an obstetrician. It exploded yesterday in the hands of his daughter, Karen, who died soon afterwards. Her mother and her brother, Kevin, aged 12, were injured. They were flown to London, where the boy is to undergo plastic surgery.

Dr Grech, who came to Malta recently, was appointed consultant at Malta University after the suspension of almost the entire academic staff by the Government as a result of industrial action by the Medical Association of Malta. The

doctor's strike has now lasted seven months.

Karen had returned home for the Christmas holiday from her convent school in England.

Athens, Dec 29.—A letter bomb addressed to the Bulgarian consulate here went off in the hands of a postman.

The letter was addressed to Mr Sergei Trochin, the Bulgarian Consul, and carried anti-communist slogans. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by an extreme right-wing group, the Greek National Socialist Organization, which had admitted responsibility for a series of letter bomb attacks.

Among those sent bombs were the American Embassy, the headquarters of a local Jewish group and an office of the Greek Communist Party.—AP and Agence France-Presse.

Belgian gang led by boy of eight

Liège, Dec 29.—Police have

arrested a gang of seven boys aged eight to 15 who stole about 90,000 francs (about £1,385) worth of toys and clothes.

The gang leader, aged eight, was parading through the town wearing a 27,000 franc fur coat and carrying two guns. Police said he was terrorizing his mates and forcing them to steal.—AP.

Equal Opportunities Commission survives criticism from left and right
Solid achievements for women despite gibes

By Annabel Ferriman

Since the Equal Opportunities Commission came into being two years ago yesterday it has been assailed by the left for not doing enough and by the right for existing at all.

Employers see it as the bureaucratic arm of unnecessary legislation and many Conservatives as a huge waste of taxpayers' money. Some would like to kill the 120-headed monster, which this year ate up £1.5m.

Critics on the left point out that the new Commission on Racial Equality has initiated as many formal investigations as its first six months as the other commission has in the past two years.

The opportunities commission was set up at the end of 1975 to monitor the equal pay and sex discrimination Acts, to work towards the elimination of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally.

The main criticism levelled at it is that it has not made enough use of its statutory powers, particularly its power to conduct formal investigations into businesses or organizations suspected of discriminating.

The two investigations it has set up, into Tameside education authority, Greater Manchester, and Electrolux Ltd of Luton, were more or less forced on it by angry parents in the first case and by a High Court judge in the second.

Tameside parents complained of discrimination against girls, because one of the two local grammar schools offering places in 1976 was reserved for boys.

It took the commission 14 months to return a verdict of "no guilt", on the ground that the Sex Discrimination Act "included single-sex schools." The single-sex school, which included a mixed grammar school, "which that year took more girls than boys."

The investigation, however, showed up the Act's weaknesses and at least one commissioner now feels that the Act needs strengthening on single-sex institutions.

The second investigation was wished on the commission by Mr Justice Phillips, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, who suggested it when the commission was doing "like work." That presents a difficulty because so many women do all-female jobs.

The commission is also considering whether to recommend a new clause in the Equal Pay Act outlawing indirect as well as direct discrimination. The Sex Discrimination Act has such a clause, which was used in the case of Price v Civil Service Department.

Mrs Belinda Price won her claim that the Civil Service recruiting age limit of 28 indirectly discriminated against women because during their twenties women were busy having children.

Such a clause in the Equal Pay Act might affect company rules on pensions and other matters covered by an employee's contract that are not covered by the sister Act.

Apart from investigations, legal case work and monitoring the Acts, the commission has submitted evidence to royal commissions on the health service and on income distribution and wealth and is about to submit evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

It has published proposals for reforming the tax laws, guidelines for advertisers, and a consultation document on retirement age.

In May the commissioners discussed taxation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They have met the Secretary of State for Education and Science several times to discuss dis-

crimination in students' grants in the school curriculum and in education cuts.

The list does not satisfy the commission's critics, however, who feel that the commission is a paper tiger. The National Council for Civil Liberties would like a tougher attitude to employers who are evading the Acts, while Rights of Women, a collective of women lawyers, would like the commission to make more noise, arguing that if its work came more into the public eye more women would make use of the Acts.

Both groups would welcome the appointment of some younger and more radical commissioners. Since the resignation of Mrs Caroline Woodroffe, chairman of the Brook Advisory Centres, there has been no woman commissioner under 40.

Some potential commissioners are discouraged by the commission's location in Manchester, which is frustrating for those living in London. Two commissioners have left this year because they could not attend regularly.

Staffing difficulties have dogged the commission's history. It had to operate during the first six months without a chief executive and for the first year without a senior legal officer. Some of the permanent staff resented the slowness with which the commissioners moved, while the commissioners were not always happy with the staff's standard of work.

The situation appears to be improving. It is rumoured that the Home Office intends to appoint a tough young woman to replace Mrs Woodroffe; many of the staffing difficulties have been solved and some of the initial distrust between staff and commissioners has disappeared.

Now that its initial difficulties are over, the proper tiger may become an animal of more substance.

land Area Health Authority established that the Sex Discrimination Act did not make compulsory retirement of women at 60 unlawful, although men do not have to retire until 65.

In monitoring the Acts the commission has found defects. Under the Equal Pay Act a woman cannot bring a case against her employer unless she can be compared with a man doing "like work." That presents a difficulty because so many women do all-female jobs.

The commission is also considering whether to recommend a new clause in the Equal Pay Act outlawing indirect as well as direct discrimination. The Sex Discrimination Act has such a clause, which was used in the case of Price v Civil Service Department.

Mrs Belinda Price won her claim that the Civil Service recruiting age limit of 28 indirectly discriminated against women because during their twenties women were busy having children.

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Calendar of world sport for 1978

By Richard Streeton

No crystal ball is needed to predict that sport in 1978 for many people will be dominated by World Cup football in Argentina and the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada. Or that apartheid and other political issues, together with reverberations from the Packer affair, both in cricket and other games, will continue to intrude upon the sports pages. The struggles between various governing bodies in sport and leading commercial and television interests, can be expected to intensify over the next 12 months.

It is impossible to list these clashes in the calendar below, but they could provide the most significant happenings of all in sport. There seems to be no limit to the money cascading into sport from big business, through sponsorship and other channels. A lot of its influence is beneficial, although it has some murky areas as well, and the dangers tend to get overlooked. As sportsmen seize chances to accrue in a few weeks more than their fathers earned in a lifetime, it behoves administrators to reappraise structures and standards and to tread warily.

Nobody, of course, should blame individuals for wishing to make the most of their talents, especially now that so much dedication, time and travel is required at the higher levels. Anyone, though, a year ago who prophesied that this week 50 of the world's leading cricketers would be working for a private promoter rather than playing Test matches would have been in danger of being certified. Yet it has happened and that is why athletics for instance should not ignore the potential threat from the Dubai circus. A measure of scepticism is reasonable in all the cases that can be cited, but it explains why football will continue to face the possibility of the United States creaming off the best from Europe and South America. Why renewed moves can be expected, sooner or later, for semi-professionalism, perhaps, in rugby union; and, in a lesser sport, why badminton is already in the throes of a wounding struggle.

There was irony attached to the remarks of the All England Club official last week when he said the amount of money tennis players earned was almost indecent. Tennis led the way along this particular path a few years

ago. What does he think about Muhammad Ali's \$10m title defence planned for 1978 or the £170,000 new prize for the winner of the Dubai mile race? Mr Justice Sinden said in the course of his Packer judgment that he was surprised a promoter had not moved into cricket earlier. His view, surely, might equally be applied to several other sports. In an age of commercial exploitation, takeovers and contractual opportunities, it would have been naive to assume that sportsmen would escape becoming embroiled.

Turning to more tangible things, the preliminary groups for the World Cup programme in June will be drawn in Buenos Aires on January 14. Scotland for the second successive tournament will be the only British Isles representatives in the final stages. The matches will once again pose the challenge between the Old World and the New—whether European sides, not least West Germany, the holders, can win in South America, something that has never happened.

The Commonwealth Games should bring their full quota of memorable performances and a chance to put them in perspective with those achieved at the African Games in Algiers immediately

beforehand from July 13-28 and the Asian Games in Bangkok from December 9-22. In several sports the British competitors at Edmonton have important engagements in Europe as soon as they return. Any swimmers chosen for the world championships in West Berlin from August 18-23 will not even stay for the closing ceremony in Canada as they return promptly for acclimatization purposes. Athletics competitors must strain their peak again at the European championships in Prague from August 29 to September 3 and the lawn bowlers rush back for the EBA championships at Worthing from August 14-25.

Golf's world cup returns to the British Isles for the first time since 1960 when it is staged at Waterville from July 6-9 and in tennis the British hard court championships are back on the calendar, though later than they used to be, at Bournemouth from September 18-24. England stages both the men's lacrosse world championships at Stockport from July 1-6 and also the European badminton championships at Preston from April 9-15.



Edmonton: trading post 1795, Klondyke gold rush 1896, Commonwealth Games 1978.

Commonwealth games

Athletics: Aug 6-12 (Commonwealth Stadium)
Badminton: Aug 4-11 (Alberta University)
Boxing: Aug 4-11 (Coronation Greens)
Boxing: Aug 4-11 (Edmonton Gardens)
Cycling: Aug 4-12 (Argyll Velodrome)
Gymnastics: Aug 6-9 (Coliseum)
Hockey: Aug 3-10 (Strathcona Ranges)
Swimming: Aug 4-9 (Kinsmen Sports Centre)
Weightlifting: Aug 4-8 (Jubilee Auditorium)
Wrestling: Aug 9-11 (Alberta University)

Angling

July 1: British men's championship, fourth division, River Humber.
July 15: British women's championship, River Nene.
Aug 19: British men's championship, third division, River Witham.
Sept 9: British men's championship, first division, River Avon.
June 12: World championships, New Dams, Vienna.
Sept 23: British men's championship, second division, River Trent.

Archery

April 2: British indoor championships, Colford.
May 27-28: British field championships, Rhondda.
June 10-11: British target championships, Stoneham.
June 28-30: Grand National tournament, Oxford.
Aug 5-6: European target championships, Stoneham.

Athletics

Jan 27-28: British indoor championships, Colford.
Feb 11: Britain v West Germany, Colford.
Feb 17: East Germany v Britain, Sentenberg.
Mar 1: Britain v Spain, men, Colford.
Mar 4: English cross-country championships, Leeds.
Mar 11-12: European indoor championships, Milan.
Mar 14: Europe v United States, indoors, Milan.
Mar 25: International cross-country championships, Glasgow.
June 10-11: Britain v East Germany, Crystal Palace.
June 23-24: AAA championships, Crystal Palace.
June 24-25: France v Britain, women, France.
July 2: Britain v Bulgaria, women, Crystal Palace.
July 14-16: United Kingdom closed championships, Meadowbank.
Aug 18-19: Women's AAA championships, Crystal Palace.
Aug 29-Sept 3: European championships, Prague.
Sept 9-10: Britain v Soviet Union v Finland, Crystal Palace.
Sept 15: IAC meeting, Crystal Palace.

Badminton

Jan 3: Denmark v England, Copenhagen.
Jan 4: Sweden v England, Trelleborg.
Jan 19: Scotland v England.
Feb 16: Uber Cup, European zone semi-final, England v Canada or Netherlands, Washington, D.C.
March 15-18: All-England championships, Wembley.
April 9-15: European championships, Preston.
May 13-20: Uber Cup, inter-zone finals, New Zealand.

Basketball

March 28: European Cup Winners' Cup final.
April 1: English Cup finals, men and women, Wembley.
April 6: European Cup final.
April 7 and 14: British Federation Cup final.
Aug 2-5: Commonwealth championships, in Wales, Scotland and England.
Oct 1-14: World championships, Manila.

Billiards, snooker

Feb 6-10: Masters snooker tournament, New London Theatre.
Feb 27-March 18: English amateur billiards championship, Middlesbrough.
April 13-15: English amateur snooker championship, All-England final, Blackpool.
April 17-29: World professional snooker championship, Sheffield.

Bobsleigh, toboggan

Jan 7-8: European four-man bobsleigh championships, Igls.
Jan 14-15: Heston Gold Cup, Cresta Run, St Moritz.
Jan 19-20: European two-man bobsleigh championships, Igls.
Jan 21-22: Cresta Run, Cresta Run.
Jan 28-29: British bobsleigh championships, Hammarstrand.
Feb 1: Services Cresta championship.
Feb 4: Morgan Cup, Cresta Run.
Feb 4-5: European toboggan championship, Hammarstrand.
Feb 11: Cresta Grand National.
Feb 11-12: World four-man bobsleigh championship, Lake Placid.

Bowls

June 9-11: EBA Masters singles tournament, Worthing.
June 19-21: Home internationals, women, Cardiff.
June 22: British Isles championships, women, Cardiff.
July 3-4: British Isles championships, men, Glasgow.
July 5-7: Home internationals, men, Glasgow.
July 7-16: English women's championships, Leamington.
July 14-26: EBA and county championship finals, Worthing.

Boxing

Jan 11: England v Scotland, Gloucester.
Jan 30: England v France, Cunard Hotel, Las Vegas.
Feb 15: Muhammad Ali v Leon Spinks, Las Vegas.
May 5: ABA finals, Wembley.
May 6-20: World amateur championships, Belgrade.

Canoeing

May 13-14: British open wild water championships.
June 1-4: Slalom international (Trywary).
July 18-19: British sprint championships, Holme Pierrepont.
Aug 10-13: World Championships, Belgrade.
Aug 26-28: British long distance championships.

Croquet

May 15-20: Peel memorials, Cheltenham.
May 15-24: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham.
July 17-22: Open championships, Hurlingham and Roehampton.
Sept 30-Oct 1: All England handicapped finals, Roehampton.

Cycling

May 28-June 10: Tour of Britain.
June 25: British professional road race championship, Coventry.
June 28-July 23: Tour de France.
July 1: British amateur road race championship, Caistor.
July 2: British women's road race championship, Sutton Bonington.
July 14-18: Scottish milk race.
July 14-23: British track championships, Leicester.
Aug 8-12: Glasgow-London professional race.
Aug 16-27: World championships, Munich, Cologne and Nürburgring.

Cricket

Jan 27: Pakistan v England, Hyderabad.
Jan 7-12: Australia v India, Sydney.
Jan 13-17: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Melbourne.
Jan 18-22: Pakistan v England, Karachi.
Jan 27-31: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Perth.
Jan 28-Feb 2: Australia v India, Adelaide.
Feb 9-13: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Sydney.
Feb 10-15: New Zealand v England, Wellington.
Feb 24-March 1: New Zealand v England, Christchurch.
March 4-9 (or 10): New Zealand v England, Auckland.
May 24: England v Pakistan, Manchester (one day).
May 26: England v Pakistan, Oval (one day).
June 1-6: England v Pakistan, Birmingham.
June 15-20: England v Pakistan, Lord's.
June 29-July 4: England v Pakistan, Leeds.
July 15: England v New Zealand, Scarborough (one day).
July 22: England v New Zealand, Manchester (one day).
July 22: Benson and Hedges Cup final, Lord's.
July 27-Aug 1: England v New Zealand, Oval.
Aug 10-15: England v New Zealand, Nottingham.
Aug 24-29: England v New Zealand, Lord's.
Sept 2: Gillette Cup final, Lord's.

Equestrianism

April 13-16: Badminton Horse Trials.
May 11-14: Royal Windsor Horse Show.
May 26-29: Embassy show jumping, Hickstead.
May 31-June 3: Royal Bath and West Show.
June 16-18: Benson and Hedges tournament, Cardiff.
July 2-6: Royal Show, Stoneleigh.
July 5-9: World dressage championship, Lord's.
July 13-16: British Jumping Derby, Hickstead.
July 17-22: Royal International Horse Show, Wembley.
Aug 3-6: Nations Cup meeting, Hickstead.
Aug 8-13: Royal Dublin Society show.
Aug 15-19: World driving championship, Budapest.
Aug 16-20: World show jumping championship, Aachen.
Aug 25-Sept 8: Wills British championship, Hickstead.
Aug 31-Sept 3: Burghley horse trials.
Sept 14-17: World three-day event championship, Lexington, Kentucky.
Oct 2-7: Horse of the Year show, Wembley.
Dec 14-18: Olympia show.

Fencing

Feb 4-5: Coronation Cup, men's foil, de Beaumont Centre.
Feb 11-12: C-L de Beaumont Cup, women's foil, de Beaumont Centre.
March 4: Mercini epee competition, de Beaumont Centre and Seymour Hall.
April 8-9: Corbie Cup, sabre event, de Beaumont Centre.
April 15-16: British epee championship, de Beaumont Centre.
April 22-23: British foil championship, de Beaumont Centre.
April 29-30: British sabre championship, de Beaumont Centre.
July 13-23: World championships, Hamburg.

Football's leading fixtures

World Cup: Argentina June 1-25

(Sixteen countries play in four groups)
June 2, 6 and 10: Group one matches at Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata.
June 1, 2, 6 and 10: Group two matches at Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba.
June 3, 7 and 11: Group three matches at Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata.

Other fixtures

Feb 22: West Germany v England, Munich.
March 18: Football League Cup final, Wembley.
April 19: England v Brazil, Wembley.
April 26: UEFA Cup final, first leg, Paris.
May 3: European Cup Winners' Cup final, Paris.
May 6: FA Cup final, Wembley; Scottish Cup final, Glasgow.
May 9: UEFA Cup final, second leg (or May 11).
May 10: European Cup final, Wembley.
May 13: Wales v England, Cardiff; Northern Ireland v Scotland, Belfast.

Golf

May 20-25: British championships, Leamston, Akin.
Aug 19-28: European championships, Nympsfield, Stroud.

Golf

April 6-9: United States Masters, Augusta.
May 6-7: Lytham Trophy, Royal Lytham.
May 19-21: Erabazon trophy, Woodhall Spa.
May 26-29: PGA championship, Royal Birkdale.
June 5-10: British Amateur championship, Troon.
June 6-10: British women's championship, Notts.
June 15-18: United States Open.
July 6-9: World Cup, Waterville, Co Kerry.
July 12-15: Open championship, St Andrews.
July 24-29: English Amateur championship, Royal Birkdale.
July 29: St Andrews trophy (Great Britain v Continent), Bremen.
Aug 4-5: Curtis Cup, Apawamis, New York.
Oct 4-7: Dunlop Masters, St Pierre, Chamonix.
Oct 12-15: Colgate matchplay tournament, Wentworth.
Oct 19-22: European Open, London area.

Greyhound racing

April 8: Grand National, White City.
June 24: Derby, White City.
Sept 4: St Leger, Wembley.

Gymnastics

Jan 21: Champions Cup, Albert Hall.
April 15: Champions All tournament, Wembley.
May 5-7: British men's championships, Coventry.
May 13: British women's championships, venue undecided.
Dec 2-5: British international tournament, venue undecided.

Hockey

March 4: Wales v England, women, Llanelli.
July 2-6: County final.
March 11: England v United States, women, Wembley.
March 11-12: International festival, Lord's.
March 19-April 2: World Cup, Buenos Aires.
March 28-30: Five nations tournament, women, Bedford.
April 1: England v Scotland, women, Chesterfield.
April 15: Ireland v England, women, Cork.
April 29-May 1: International tournament, women, Amsterdam.
May 7: National club final.
May 12-15: European club championships, men and women, Barcelona.
Sept 2-10: European Nations Cup, Hannover.

Ice hockey

March 10-19: World championships, pool C, Las Palmas.
March 16-27: World championships, pool B, Belgrade.
April 26-May 14: World championships, pool A, Prague.

Judo

April 15: British men's open championships, Crystal Palace.
April 25-26: British men's team championships, Bath.
May 4-5: European individual championships, Helsinki.

Lacrosse

Feb 25: Men's senior flag final, Crystal Palace.
March 11: Scotland v England, women, Dunfermline College, Edinburgh.
March 18: England v Wales, women, Hurlingham.
June 24: South v Australia, men (or June 25).
July 1-6: Men's world championships, Stockport.
July 16-Aug 25: English women's Australian tour.
Sept 23: Iroquois Cup, men.

Lacrosse

Feb 25: Men's senior flag final, Crystal Palace.
March 11: Scotland v England, women, Dunfermline College, Edinburgh.
March 18: England v Wales, women, Hurlingham.
June 24: South v Australia, men (or June 25).
July 1-6: Men's world championships, Stockport.
July 16-Aug 25: English women's Australian tour.
Sept 23: Iroquois Cup, men.

Modern pentathlon

June 19-23: Home internationals, Crystal Palace.
Aug 10-13: British open championships, Walton-on-Thames.
Aug 18-23: World championships, Jönköping.

Motor cycling

Feb 18: World trials championship, Rhysder.
April 21-23: World formula 750 world championship, Brands Hatch.
May 4: World speedway team championship, Reading.
June 3-9: Isle of Man TT races.
June 18: British 250 moto-cross grand prix, Lochgilbligh.
July 2: British 500 moto-cross grand prix, Trobridge.
July 16: European sidecar cross country championship, Newbury.
Aug 5-6: British grand prix, Silverstone.
Sept 2: World individual speedway championship, Wembley.
Sept 23-24: British grand prix d'Endurance, Brands Hatch.

Motor racing

Jan 15: Argentine GP, Buenos Aires.
Jan 21-28: Monte Carlo Rally.
Jan 29: Brazilian GP, Rio de Janeiro.
March 4: South African GP, Kyalami.
March 19: International Trophy, Silverstone.
April 2: United States GP West, Long Beach.
May 7: Monaco GP, Monte Carlo.
May 21: Belgian GP, Zolder.
June 24: Spanish GP, Jarama.
June 10-11: Le Mans.
June 18: Swedish GP, Anderstorp.
July 2: French GP, Paul Ricard.
July 16: British GP, Brands Hatch.
July 30: German GP, Hockenheim.
Aug 13: Austrian GP, Zeltweg.
Aug 27: Dutch GP, Zandvoort.
Sept 10: Italian GP, Monza.
Oct 1: United States GP, Watkins Glen (or Oct 8).
Nov 19-23: RAC rally.

Netball

Jan 25: England v Wales, Coventry (or 26).
Feb 18: England v Northern Ireland, Bristol.
March 18: Wales v England, Cardiff.
Nov 4: Wembley international.

Orienteering

March 24-27: Jan Kjellström Trophy, Sheffield.
April 30: British relay championships, North-east England.
June 11: British championships, Fife.

Polo

May 21-29: National 14-goal championship, Cirencester.
June 4-11: Queen's Cup, Windsor.
June 18-25: Royal Windsor Cup, Windsor.
July 1-6: Cowdroy Park Gold Cup, Cowdroy.
July 15-16: Whitbread Cup, Woolmers Park.
July 18-30: Cowdroy Park Challenge Cup, Cowdroy.
July 23: WIP Coronation Cup, Windsor.
Aug 6: National team trophy, Cirencester.

Racing

Feb 11: Schweppes Gold Trophy, hurdle, Newbury.
March 15: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham.
March 16: Gold Cup, Cheltenham.
April 1: Grand National, Liverpool.
April 8: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster.
May 4: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
May 6: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
June 4: French Derby, Chantilly.
June 7: Derby, Epsom.
June 10: Oaks, Epsom.
June 20-23: Royal Ascot.
June 24: Irish Derby, the Curragh (or 25).
July 8: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Park.
July 23: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot.
July 25-29: Goodwood meeting.
Aug 22: Benson and Hedges Gold Cup, York.
Sept 16: St Leger Stakes, Doncaster.
Sept 22: Ayr Gold Cup.
Oct 1: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp.
Oct 7: Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket.
Oct 21: Champion Stakes, Casnewick Handicap, Newmarket.
Oct 28: William Hill Futurity Stakes, Doncaster.
Nov 25: Hennessy Gold Cup, Newbury.
Dec 26: King George VI Stoopchase, Kempton Park.

Rackets, real tennis

Feb 5-12: Amateur rackets singles championship, Queen's Club.
April 13-16: Bathurst Cup real tennis, Paris.
April 23-30: Amateur real tennis singles championship, Queen's Club.
May 13-21: Henry Leaf real tennis trophy finals, Queen's Club.

Rowing

March 18: Head of the River, Mortlake to Putney.
March 25: University Boat Race (230).
May 24-27: Oxford Summer Eights (provisional).
June 7-10: Cambridge May Races (provisional).
June 24-25: Nottinghamshire International, Nottingham.
June 29-July 2: Henley Royal Regatta.
July 15-16: British championships, Nottingham.
July 21: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (11.30).
Oct 30-Nov 5: Men's and women's world championships, New Zealand.

Rugby League

Feb 28: Players competition, final.
Feb 19: Wales v England, Swansea.
March 5: France v England.
May 13: Challenge Cup final, Wembley.
May 20: Premiership final.

Rugby Union

Jan 18: England v Australia, 19 group, Twickenham.
Jan 19: France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin.
Feb 4: France v Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Murrayfield.
Feb 18: France v Ireland, Paris; Wales v Scotland, Cardiff.
March 4: Scotland v England, Murrayfield; Ireland v Wales, Dublin.
March 8: UAU final, Twickenham.
March 18: England v Ireland, Twickenham; Wales v France, Cardiff.
April 15: John Player Cup final, Twickenham.
April 29: Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham.
June 11: Australia v Wales, Brisbane.
June 17: Australia v Wales, Sydney.
Oct 14: England v Argentina, Twickenham.
Oct-Dec: All Blacks tour of British Isles.
Dec 12: Oxford v Cambridge, Twickenham.

Swimming

March 8-11: National short course championships, Cheltenham.
March 25-27: Coca-Cola meeting, Leeds.
April 8-9: Six nations contest, Dortmund.
April 11-12: Britain v East Germany v Sweden, Crystal Palace.
May 26-29: ASA championships, Blackpool.
May 26-28: Four nations water polo, Crystal Palace.
July 8-9: International Diving Union Cup, Linz.
July 26-30: European junior championships, Florence.
Aug 14-19: National age group competitions, Coventry.
Aug 18-23: World championships, West Berlin.
Nov 25: Inter-county knockout competition final, Nuneaton.

Skating

Jan 28-29: European speed championships, men, Oslo.
Jan 31-Feb 4: European figure championships, Strasbourg.
Feb 11-12: World sprint championships, Lake Placid.
Feb 25-26: World speed championships, men, Göteborg.
March 4-5: World speed championships, women, Helsinki.
March 7-11: World figure championships, Ottawa.
Nov 5-6: Richmond Trophy, Richmond.
Nov 18: British ice dance championship, Nottingham.
Nov 28-29: British figure championships, Richmond.

Skiing

Jan 14-15: Lauberhorn Cup, Wengen; Martini-Kandahar, Sankarico.
Jan 26-27: Hahnenkamm Trophy, Kitzbühel.
Jan 21-Feb 3: British Nordic championships, Oberjoch.
Jan 29-Feb 2: World Alpine championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
Feb 8-12: Arlberg-Rendahar Chamoniix, Megève, St Gervais.
Feb 17-27: World Nordic championships, Lathi.
March 15: World biathlon championships, Hochfilzen.
March 16-19: World Cup finals, Arosa.
April 8-9: British Alpine championships, Cairngorm.

Squash rackets

Jan 13-15: Home internationals, Warrington.
Jan 25-Feb 6: British amateur championships, Wembley.
Feb 17-19: SRPA closed championships, Grantham.
Feb 24-March 2: British women's open championships, Wembley.
March 15-19: European amateur team championships, men and women, Amsterdam.
March 28-April 8: British open championships, Wembley.

Shooting

May 18-20: British open clay pigeon championships, London.
July 17-19: NRA meeting, Bisley.
Aug 10-12: British open skeet championships, Bedford.
Aug 12-14: British small-bore rifle championships, Bisley.
Aug 24-28: British pistol championship, Bisley.
Sept 24-Oct 5: World small-bore championship, South Korea.

Table tennis

Jan 6: England v China, Middlesbrough.
Jan 10: England v China, Edmonton.
Jan 12-14: English open championships, Brighton.
Feb 16-18: English closed championships, Woking.
March 10-19: European championships, Duisburg.
April 6: England v Netherlands, Plymouth.

Tennis

Jan 2-8: Masters tournament, New York.
Mar 29-April 2: Virginia Slims finals, Oakland.
May 8-14: WCT singles final, Dallas.
May 22-26: Italian championships, Rome.
May 29-June 11: French championships, Paris.
June 12-18: John Player tournament, Birmingham.
June 19-24: Colgate women's tournament, Eastbourne; Rawlings tournament, Queen's Club.
June 26-July 8: Wimbledon championships.
Aug 28-Sept 10: United States championships, New York.
Sept 18-24: British hard court championships, Bournemouth.
Nov 24: Wightman Cup, London.
Nov 13-19: Benson and Hedges tournament, London.
Dec 27-Dec 3: Federation Cup, Melbourne.
Dec 18-28: Australian championships, Melbourne.

Water skiing

June 3-4: Old Spice international, Rustip.
June 24: British Grand Prix, Burnham-on-Sea.
July 15-16: British championships, Torquay Water Park.

Weightlifting

March 4: British championships, Manchester.
May 1: Britain v China, Bristol.
June 7-19: European championships, Havrovo, Czechoslovakia.
Sept 29-Oct 9: World championships, Tegel.

Wrestling

April 8: English championships, Bexley.
April 21-23: European Greco-Roman championships, Oslo.
May 5-7: European free-style championships, Sofia.
May 27: British championships, Glasgow.
June 3: British senbto championships, Huddersfield or Stratford.
Sept 3-6: World Greco-Roman championships, Mexico City.
Sept 7-10: World free-style championships, Mexico City.

Yachting

June 3-9: Weymouth Olympic classes.
June 3: Round Ireland race starts, Falmouth.
July 9-14: Edward Heath and James Cook series, Channel/Cowes.
July 22-28: Korsar world championship, Graham Water.
July 23-28: Enterprise world championship, Painsan.
July 29-Aug 6: Cowes Week.
Aug 13-26: Half Ton Cup world championship, Poole.

Foreign Report

Cottages to let with all mod cons—official

Last summer a colleague rented a Devon cottage for his family holiday. It was advertised as having a bedroom, a sitting room, and a kitchen. Only when he arrived did he discover that all three were in fact in the same small space. The family gave up the holiday after one uncomfortable night, and returned home. They had no redress. The consumer's usual protections do not apply when doing business with private individuals.

Of course most people hiring holiday cottages in Britain this summer will be fully satisfied. But the fact remains that the trade is unregulated, and that charges and standards vary enormously. Agencies take large mark-ups on rentals, and holiday homes belonging to organizations with reputations to maintain, such as the National Trust and Landmark Trust, have to be booked years rather than months ahead although they are by no means cheap.

They do things differently in France. In Britain not even the hotels are officially inspected or classified. In France, where there is a passion for placing things in categories, even the country holiday cottages are officially graded.

Last year 500 British families called at the French Government Tourist Office (178 Piccadilly) to book holidays in *Gîtes de France*—privately owned holiday homes and modernized to set standards with the aid of government improvement grants and low-cost loans. This year the service is being expanded and bookings will also be taken by post.

The *Gîtes* (the word means the form, or nest, of a hare) are administered by the *Fédération Nationale des Gîtes de France*, a para-governmental, non-profit-making organization, responsible for developing the self-catering rural holiday market in France.

In return for the financial assistance they get in modernizing and equipping what are usually redundant cottages or farm buildings, gîte owners have to sign and abide by a strict charter. The provisions cover the standards of comfort, equipment and amenities. No gîte, for example, is without an internal, flushing, ventilated toilet.

The owners are also obliged to ensure that they, or their representatives, are available close at hand to welcome guests, deal with any problems, and provide information.

Gîtes are inspected by the departmental authorities before being accepted on to the lists, and are officially graded. They do not get stars, like hotels, but, appropriately for an essentially rural phenomenon, *épis*, or ears of corn. One *épis* signifies basic accommodation conforming to the minimum standards. Three is the deluxe class, which may be a timbered apartment in an ancient chateau.

Prices are determined in consultation with the departmental authorities. Once fixed they cannot be increased by more than 10 per cent a year. The departmental sections of the *Fédération* handling bookings take a modest amount, between 5 and 10 per cent of the total rent, for their services. Tax concessions which the owners enjoy depend upon their observing the charter rules.

The result is that, especially with the pound strengthening against the franc, *gîtes* represent an exceptional holiday bargain. An average gîte for five, with two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom, costs £30 to £45 a week, according to season. Prices can be as low as £15 a week in the off-season. I stayed at a delightful gîte in the Manche last summer, and took the opportunity to inspect several others. Our own cottage, with three double bedrooms and a huge living-dining room with all the iron utensils required for cooking over blazing wood fires in the open *cheminée* (and a modern electric cooker in the modern kitchen) cost 370 francs in June or September, 470 in July or August.

In the standard of equipment and decoration it surpassed anything I have seen in self-catering accommodation in Britain, but it rated only two *épis*—because the bathroom was on the ground floor, rather than from the bedrooms, and the exterior rather plain.

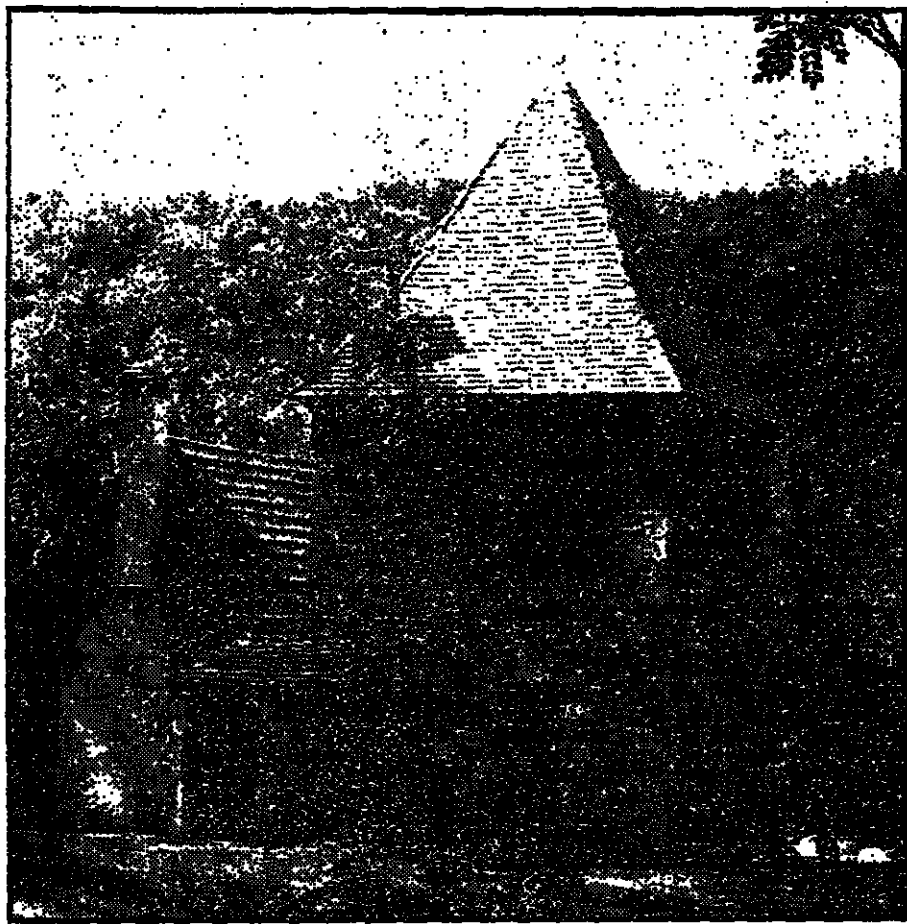
On the other hand we had farmyard animals at the backdoor, and neighbouring farmers kept us supplied with fresh picked strawberries, corn-fed chicken, and fresh cream. We had two coasts within easy driving distance.

There are 3,000 *gîtes* in France all told. There are even *gîtes* in the French West Indies, Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as a couple of hundred in Corsica. The department with the largest number is Savoy, followed by Ardèche, Isère, Finistère, Aude and Dordogne.

To book a gîte it is necessary to join the British section of the *Fédération*. Membership costs £3.50, and includes a copy of the *French Farm and Village Holiday Guide* listing and illustrating 1,000 *gîtes*, and otherwise obtainable from major bookshops at £1.95, or direct from Euro States Publishing, 14 Sun Street, EC2M 2QA. The British section's address is 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL.

The French Travel Service have also introduced package holidays using gîte accommodation, from £42 per person per week including cross-Channel ferry fares. Full details of these are available from British Rail travel centres.

Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent



Argentina keeps its grip on Perón's wife

On Christmas Eve, María Estela Perón, who so pathetically misruled Argentina for 21 months, began her twenty-second month of imprisonment. No other deposed Argentine president this century has been detained for so long. But Señora Perón, who is trapped as much by her past and the shadow of her late husband as by the will of her military jailers, faces the likelihood of further unhappy years of detention ahead.

With a recent suicide attempt behind her, the fragile ex-cabaret girl and ex-president is confined to a wired-off compound inside the Azopardo navy base 200 miles from Buenos Aires. If some reports can be credited, she would happily enter a Spanish convent and forget about Argentina and Peronism.

For a woman of 45, bereft of political gifts, who enslaved herself to Juan Domingo Perón nearly two decades ago, becoming a prisoner of his politics, then of the presidency and now of her military overthrowers, escapism is an understandable sentiment.

But it is not likely to be satisfied, unless humanitarian considerations intervene. The military junta will not easily forget Señora Perón's stubbornness, hysterics and

devotion to Perón. During Argentina's darkest hour, she revealed only brief flashes of political common sense, and the junta will hardly risk her rallying Peronism from Spanish exile, as Perón did for many years.

The reported hopes of some Peronists that she may soon be set free in Argentina appear even dreamier. For without her, the junta can hope that Peronism, with its anti-economic nationalism and egocentric populism, will sink into oblivion. For 30 years it has been Argentina's main political force, a sibling of fascist ideologies of the 1930s which has long helped make Argentina ungovernable.

Whatever the discredit and disintegration brought upon the movement by its disastrous 1973-76 government, it has a history of remarkable resilience. The military interest must be to avert its further resurrection if they are to build the promised "new republic" along modern and democratic lines.

It is ominous that Señora Perón's hopes of freedom that the military plan to rule another 10 years to achieve this. It is equally ominous that the eventual destiny of now leaderless Peronist votes, and con-

trol of Peronist unions, will largely decide Argentina's future. The struggle to grab them will shape its politics for years, and Señora Perón will be either a pawn or a queen in the game.

There are populists enough in today's Argentina eager to inherit Perón's constituency. Some, like Perón, are military men, though lacking his schooling in Mussolini's Italy. Prominent generals can already be tentatively identified playing to the masses and the Peronist unions, hindering President Jorge Rafael Videla's efforts to bury the past and modernize the country. Even Admiral Emilio Massera, junta member and navy commander, is often identified among them, particularly as the chief critic of austere economic policies designed to restore the economy, establish a free market system and sweep away built-in fiefdoms.

Señora Perón's magic name may one day drag her into this emerging power game. Indeed, the Peronist movement is not dead yet, and whenever its adherents gather her name is still enthusiastically chanted. "If she definitely drops the bunch who surrounded her in office we will still recognize her as our leader," declares Señor Juan José Tacora, vice leader of a Peronist labour organization.

But at present the junta wants her sentenced on corruption charges in the civil courts, partly because this could grant some *post facto* legitimacy to her overthrow. They also need her evidence in similar cases against her former colleagues. The seven cases against Señora Perón include alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars of public money. Some appear quite flimsy, but the possible sentences range up to eight years jail and it may be two years before any judgments are reached. Until then she is being detained by court order. Her early release is unlikely on technical grounds. President Videla cannot legally pardon her before sentencing, so the judges would have to quash each case in unison to make it possible.

Even that would not guarantee Señora Perón's freedom. She is simultaneously held under the junta's "Act of Institutional Responsibility" by which she and about 50 others have lost their property, freedom and political rights for allegedly culpable responsibility in office. This may all seem harsh on a small town dancing girl who married a big-time ex-dictator and then did her incompetent best when he returned to power, died, and left her as president. But if the penalties against her are to be paid, she must measure with the disasters they bring. Señora Perón might well consider herself comfortably off in her three-room officer's bungalow at the Azopardo base. She has her poodle, her Spanish maid and her garden. Her solitary friend, Señora Cuca de Marco, wife of an ex-minister, comes to stay at weekends and reports her well cared for, in good health and reasonable cheer, writing poetry and the story of her life with Perón.

Yet the bit part actress who tried bravely to understand the dead master in an impossible role is an unfortunate surrogate for Perón's own guilt. Perón was indeed happy in the hour of his death, for his legacy was a violently disintegrating movement and a country wrecked by its greatest moment of crisis. If ever a ruler deserved posthumous impeachment, for designating an inexperienced woman to succeed him as president at such a time, it was he rather than his ill-equipped successor.

Andrew Tarnowski



WILL EUROPE GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH AN ECONOMIC HANGOVER?

In next Tuesday's issue Europa looks to the future with a review of the past year, and assesses the economic legacy of 1977. A firm footing for movement forward or just more shifting sand?

In addition, Europa stirs the troubled waters of the European partners' policies on fishing rights and also pursues big fish of a different kind with a report on the European businessman's growing interest in tax havens.

Opportunities for future business in China are revealed, and Jacqueline Grapin, editor of Europa considers Canada's increasing inclination to flex economic muscles independently of the U.S.

Published on the first Tuesday of every month, Europa deals with economic, financial and industrial affairs and allied social questions, as they affect the total European business community.

Europa is written by the most respected writers in Europe and is published simultaneously with the newspapers they represent: The Times, Le Monde, La Stampa and Die Welt. Articles are up-to-date and translated into the mother tongue immediately before publication in each of the four countries.

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Europa

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A force in the Mediterranean

"There's potential for many ambiguous situations with something less than a major war". This is how Nato's southern headquarters at Naples characterizes its command area.

Much the same can be said of the contiguous region on the other side of the Mediterranean where a weighty element of Nato, the American Sixth Fleet, is also a considerable presence, mostly unseen but constantly felt, for Israel and her Arab neighbours.

If formal American security guarantees may ultimately be extended to Israel in the context of a Middle Eastern arrangement, the Sixth Fleet will give them instant credibility. The Arabs in general have, indeed, always regarded it as evidence of a commitment implicit but no less firm.

Awareness of the credibility aspect is heightened by a visit to the "USS America", 78,500 tons, 5,000 men—2,100 of them in the air wing—which was cruising off Crete with her 30 jet aircraft on day and night training flights.

She is currently one of two such US carriers that are a permanent feature among the 15 or so combatant ships on attachment with the Sixth Fleet and serve to give it a conspicuous lead in a political show of force.

The description "completely equipped air bases" is hardly an exaggeration, and as one officer put it, unlike land bases overseas, the carriers are not dependent on the political temperament of foreign governments.

That night, as returning fighters came howling out of the inky blackness, the only indication of sea level was a red semaphore winking out

somewhere on the port beam—a message from one of the five escorting destroyers.

If precisely aimed visual signals have not been entirely superseded by electronic systems, one of the reasons for this had been clearly visible until dusk two or three miles behind: a Russian Riga-class frigate that had been trailing the carrier all day.

The Soviet Mediterranean squadron—with at least a score of combatant vessels drawn from both Northern and Black Sea fleets—has a flotilla of intelligence-gathering craft dogging the wake of major United States units.

"Our tail-tails", they are called by the Americans who do not reciprocate this type of surveillance. They rely instead on intensive photo reconnaissance by Crusaders, one of the eight different types of jet aircraft on the "America", and her companion carrier.

The perpetual Soviet eye was even useful to Washington in the 1967 Middle East war when President Nasser, mindful always of the importance for Israel of the American naval force, accused fleet planes of attacking his forces in the Suez. Moscow knew the charge to be incorrect.

Soviet missile cruisers of the Moscow and Krasa classes have helicopters, but are disadvantaged in wide-ranging air cover. While the Russians do have limited facilities at Tartus, in Syria, and access to repair yards in Yugoslavia, their being deprived of the use of Alexandria as from April, 1976, means they have since had nothing comparable with the services available to the Americans at Naples and other Italian ports.

Because of this current

logistic deficiency, their main units are probably less active in promoting Moscow's political aims than would otherwise be the case. They make much use of fixed anchorages in international waters off North Africa and Crete and rely heavily on auxiliary vessels.

Albania having fallen out with Peking, the Naples HQ is alert for any hint of a Tirana-Moscow rapprochement enabling the Soviet navy to regain its former submarine base there. They are also on the look out for any move whereby it could avail itself of north African ports, not least Tobruk harbour. The Russians do, of course, visit some of these ports and the small Libyan navy has Soviet equipment, including a submarine, but as yet there is no overt sign of a significantly closer association.

A major concern at Naples is what happens after Tito in Yugoslavia, whose continued independence is regarded as primordial, from the naval aspect as well. Among its other preoccupations are the Greek-Turkish dispute in the Aegean, the importance of ensuring the benevolent neutrality of Spain and the efforts of the British phasing out.

The narrow entrances at each end of the Mediterranean are the steadily-improving satellite surveillance of its 970,000 square miles by both super powers inhibits maximum deployment of the submarine fleets to which the Soviets in particular have allocated a leading strategic and tactical role.

The "America's" officers brush off any suggestions that the carriers could in some circumstances be like sitting ducks, their confidence a reflec-

tion of the fact that 30 per cent of the navy's budget goes on anti-submarine measures.

"We can be a very elusive target, moving 300 miles over the sea, and our airbases are highly manoeuvrable and can travel 30 knots plus."

"We have surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, the latest in electronic counter-measures, our airborne early warning can detect and assess soon enough for successful interception in any weather."

Our aircraft, patrolling out 400 to 500 miles, locate any submarine and stay right on top. We can hit anything coming at us in the air or in the sea. We have reason to feel comfortable living on board here."

Specialization of tasks on the ship is such that many of the men on board are hardly conscious of the sea or of the difference between day and night.

Not so for the flight deck squads in their array of red, yellow and white jackets, with crash-helmets and walkie-talkies. Beards, moustaches and long hair are commonplace; they have something of the look of Wild West air about them, each busy with his own responsibility.

This was what most surprised a Soviet defector who visited the carrier, he said. He couldn't get over the contrast with their ships. "But these men know their jobs and are given the latitude to get on with them independently. The majority are under the age of 20, a few years younger than the pilots. The captain, 50, is a former carrier pilot who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years."

Alan McGregor

Food Report

Pat forecast

The Consumers' Association said immediately after Christmas that if certain things happened shoppers would have to pay about 62p a pound for butter late in 1978. It was a very precise forecast, but it was about as useful and reliable as a prediction of a white Christmas.

The association wanted to illustrate the folly of paying farmers to produce more milk, thereby pushing up prices of dairy goods like butter, when milk products were already so expensive that the BEC was unable to sell much of what it was making.

The association based its forecast on three things. First, it remains the same, British support prices were raised on New Year's Day at the end of the transitional period of the country's membership of the Community. It was safe, with this figure since it had been calculated by the Government.

The association then calculated that the rise in farm prices, throughout the EEC which the European Commission has already proposed for 1978, would add 2p a pound on

butter prices in Britain. It went on to say that the rise proposed by the commission for this country alone through a devaluation of the green pound would add a further 2p.

"By the time all the increases are passed on," the association concluded, "probably by next autumn, and if the special United Kingdom subsidy for butter is then taken away, the price will then have to pay around 62p a pound."

Each of these three assumptions is highly questionable. First, rises in farm prices proposed by the commission for the whole EEC are almost never accepted by the Council of Ministers. Farm Ministers, which has the final say about them.

Second, the devaluations of the green pound which it suggests are almost never accepted by the British Government,

which has the final say about them. Thirdly, the association assumes that the special subsidy paid in this country alone will stay the same.

Its value for most of 1978 has still to be decided, and the British Government has already used the green pound as a bargaining weapon. To get particular concessions like the butter subsidy. It is therefore unwise for the association to assume that the Government will devalue the green pound as the commission wants and that the subsidy will be unchanged.

It is just as likely that the Community will refuse to extend the subsidy in which case Britain will refuse to devalue the green pound. Butter might then cost 72p a pound late next year.

High Clayton

AN IN
weekdays
closed 24-27
admis

January

attempt to escape: since March 1976, 18 Africans had died in detention (two more died in custody on the 24th) (see also Aug 15 and Sept 12).

The EEC reached agreement on the conservation of fish stocks.

16 The Home Secretary announced that the journalists Mr Philip Agee and Mr Mark

Parry was accorded legal status.

Al-Qadri al-Hajri, a former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a colleague were shot dead in Bayswater, London.

France supplied aircraft to fly 1,500 Moroccan troops to Algiers to help the army there fight rebel troops.

Over the weekend, 42 people were killed in riots in Pakistan; by April 21 the death toll was 2,000 and martial law was proclaimed; on the 24th, opposition leaders were arrested (see *London* July 5).

In Belfast, during the commemoration of the 1916 Easter rising, a bomb killed a boy of

June

1 Speed limits were raised:
2 60 mph, dual roads; 50
3 60 mph, single.
4 With the killing of three
5 policemen in co Tyrone, the
6 death roll of the force since
7 1969 rose to 103.
8 After a 16-week dispute,
9

accepted an offer (reported to be worth £340,000) to organize a tribunal for four years for the United Nations Security Council. The first democratic Cortes since the Civil War opened in Spain.

The TUC rejected pay controls after July 31, but on the 27th voted to abide by the 12-month interval on rises.

A 24-hour power failure in New York led to looting and over 4,000 arrests were made.

15 The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement: increase in earnings in the next 12 months should be limited to .10 per cent; breaches of that guideline would bring penalties to companies; amendments to the Finan-

22. The military leader of Ethiopia called for general strikes; both sides suffered heavy casualties in the battle for Dire Dawa.

23. In Lebanon, the first clashes since March between Christians and Muslims left a death toll of 17.

24. The Scamman report on the Grunwick dispute blamed both sides; it recommended that the company should offer to re-employ any strikers; the company rejected the report.

25. Despite the efforts of the organizers, the Notting Hill, London, carnival was marred by violence.

26. Anglo-American Rhodesia peace negotiators meeting Mr

warded to Miss Mairead Corrigan and Mrs Betty Williams, leaders of the N Ireland Peace Movement.

President Ibrahim al-Hamdi of N Yemen was assassinated. Sir Neville Martin-Jones shared the Nobel Prize for physics.

£12 A record price for a camera—£12,000—was paid at Christie's.

£3 President Carter strongly condemned the oil companies for the destruction of his energy policy.

A memorial commemorating all those who "laid down their lives for Christ and conscience" was unveiled in Westminster Abbey.

A Lufthansa Boeing 737 en

to British Leyland was divided into: Leyland Cars; Truck and Bus; Special Products; Leyland International.

Lord Scarman, in a lecture thought that "A Bill of Rights is imperative".

At Wembley, England beat Italy 2-0; the latter beat Luxembourg on Dec 3 to qualify for the World Cup.

7. The Egyptian Foreign Minister and his deputy resigned over President Sadat's proposed visit to Israel.

Miss Mary Stavis (20) of Sweden was elected Miss World.

Mr Bonaventura Sipho Malunga died in detention in Johannesburg.

9. President Sadat arrived in

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February

14 In Johannesburg, a detained African fell to his death in an attempt to escape; since March 1976, 18 Africans had died in detention (two more died in custody on the 24th) (see also AG 15 and Sept 12). The EEC reached agreement on the conservation of fish stocks.

Parry was accorded legal status.

Al-Qadri al-Hajri, a former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a colleague were shot dead in Bayswater, London.

France supplied aircraft to fly 1,500 Moroccan troops to Algiers to help the army there fight rebel troops.

Over the weekend, 42 people were killed in riots in Pakistan; by April 21 the death toll was 200 and martial law was proclaimed; on the 24th, opposition leaders were arrested (see *London* July 5).

In Belfast, during the commemoration of the 1916 Easter rising, a bomb killed a boy of

1 Speed limits were raised:
 2 60 mph, dual roads; 50
 3 to 60 mph, single.
 4 With the killing of three
 5 policemen in co Tyrone, the
 6 death roll of the force since
 7 1969 rose to 103.
 8 After a 16-week dispute,
 9

accepted an offer (reported to be worth £340,000) to organize a tribunal for four years for the United Nations.

13 The first democratic Cortes since the Civil War opened in Spain.

The TUC rejected pay controls after July 31, but on the 27th voted to abide by the 12-month interval on rises.

A 24-hour power failure in New York led to looting and over 4,000 arrests were made.

15 The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement: increase in earnings in the next 12 months should be limited to .10 per cent; breaches of that guideline would bring penalties to companies; amendments to the Finan-

22. The military leader of Ethiopia called for general strikes; both sides suffered heavy casualties in the battle for Dire Dawa.

23. In Lebanon, the first clashes since March between Christians and Muslims left a death toll of 17.

24. The Scamman report on the Grunwick dispute blamed both sides; it recommended that the company should offer to re-employ any strikers; the company rejected the report.

25. Despite the efforts of the organizers, the Notting Hill, London, carnival was marred by violence.

26. Anglo-American Rhodesia peace negotiators meeting Mr

warded to Miss Mairead Corrigan and Mrs Betty Williams, leaders of the N Ireland Peace Movement.

President Ibrahim al-Hamdi of N Yemen was assassinated. Sir Neville Martin-Jones shared the Nobel Prize for physics.

£12 A record price for a camera £12,000—was paid at Christie's.

£3 President Carter strongly condemned the oil companies for the destruction of his energy policy.

A memorial commemorating all those who "laid down their lives for Christ and conscience" was unveiled in Westminster Abbey.

A Lufthansa Boeing 737 en

to British Leyland was divided into: Leyland Cars; Truck and Bus; Special Products; Leyland International.

Lord Scarman, in a lecture thought that "A Bill of Rights is imperative".

At Wembley, England beat Italy 2-0; the latter beat Luxembourg on Dec 3 to qualify for the World Cup.

7. The Egyptian Foreign Minister and his deputy resigned over President Sadat's proposed visit to Israel.

8. Miss Mary Stavis (20), of Sweden, became Miss World.

9. Mr Bonaventura Sipho Malunga died in detention in Johannesburg.

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announced the

John Smith in Rhodesia—his first visit there of a British.

the Criminal Procedure Bill and

women; their demands were a

Jack Lonsdale

Mr Jenkins will be judged on how he handles changes that are bound to shake the EEC

At the end of his first year as president of the European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins probably feels considerably more relaxed than he expected to even a few months ago. Things are starting to go right for the Commission, even though signs of positive achievement are still few and far between.

Part of Mr Jenkins's relative success is that he has established an effective relationship between the Commission and the European Council—the three-yearly summit meeting of heads of government of the Nine. The European Council has just concluded, under the presidency of Belgium (the most efficiently "European" of all EEC member states), an unusually productive meeting, which actually took some useful decisions on the budget, the size of the regional fund, and in approving the Commission's plan for a new loan to stimulate energy investment.

The second factor going for Mr Jenkins is the sharp reduction in expectations over the past year. His initial difficulties in Brussels were partly due to sheer lack of understanding of the workings of the peculiar administrative machine—a defect which has now largely been rectified, and partly because he was unwisely flattered by too many people who should have known better as the new Messiah, who was going to end the lethargy and frustrations of the Ortolani era, and set the Community off to a new start.

Today, people are more reconciled to the fact that reform of the Community institutions is going to be a long and tortuous task, and that there is not much the Community as such can do about some of Europe's more intractable current problems, such as unemployment and inflation. There is a greater air of realism about in Brussels.

At the same time, the recovery of the British and Italian economies has taken at least some of the strain out of EEC policymaking, and has helped to induce a calmer atmosphere. The question now is how the Community can profit from this turnaround, and on that there is as yet no consensus. Roy Jenkins's own ideas in this field are more

radical than a majority of his Commission colleagues will accept—let alone the national governments. However—and this is the final factor working for the new Commission—the main themes of the next few years are beginning to emerge; and it is on these that any new programme has to base itself. The two outstanding new issues are the prospective enlargement of the EEC to take in Spain, Portugal and Greece; and direct elections to the European Parliament.

It is clear that neither of these issues can be treated as an isolated question. Enlargement will fundamentally alter the nature of the Community, and will therefore force a thoroughgoing examination of the process of decision-making, and the balance of power. A structure which worked reasonably well for six countries (with four languages) has proved dangerously creaky and unwieldy for a community of nine countries (with six languages), and will almost certainly prove unworkable, unless fundamentally reformed, for a community of 12 countries embracing nine different languages.

Thus the issues of the reform of Community decision-making, which have hitherto been avoided because of their obvious sensitivity, will have to be considered in the context of the enlargement talks. As with enlargement, so with direct elections to the parliament. Here again, the most crucial questions are not those which currently attract debate: the date of elections, the method of voting, and so on. The real issue is the balance of power in the Community between the executive (ie the Commission), the national governments, and the elected legislature.

The important thing about a directly elected parliament is that its members will have the legitimacy which they currently lack as elected legislators, plus the accountability that goes with it; also, they will have the time to devote to European affairs which most of them now lack. (Today's European parliamentarians are all "moonlighters", carrying out their European functions in the time they can spare

from national politics. After direct elections, the number of such "moonlighters" will be very few.) But this does not alter the fact that on the morrow of the direct elections the European Parliament will have no more powers than it has now—and these powers are very few. The European Parliament has no power to initiate or approve legislation. It has limited authority over a part of Community expenditure—but none, for example, over the big budget item, the common agricultural policy. It does not appoint the Commission, nor can it remove individual Commissioners, its only power in this respect being the right to sack the whole Commission en bloc.

It is inconceivable that a directly elected, full-time European Parliament will be content to remain for long simply a consultative body, without any of the powers that national legislatures possess. But it is not easy to see some of the national governments—especially the United Kingdom and France—agreeing to any significant transfer of power to the European Parliament. If a major constitutional clash is to be avoided—in which, for example, the parliament might feel tempted to exercise its constitutional right to dismiss the entire Commission—contingency planning needs to be done now to try to determine how powers can be transferred in a peaceful, orderly and effective way.

In short, a Community with 12 members, and with a directly elected parliament is going to be a very different entity from the present one. So it is no longer a question of arguing whether there should or should not be changes. If the premises of enlargement and direct elections are accepted, change will come anyway. The only questions are how it should be handled, and what kind of Community one should be aiming for.

On this second point, the options have become a good deal clearer in the last few years. The federal United States of Europe, on the American model, is clearly receding as an attainable objective. At the same time, the strength of the European



institutions has been shown during the recent recession, and the degree of policy coordination between member states is increasing steadily. The development of harmonization and supra-national decision-making has varied greatly, depending on the relevance of the issues to national governments, and the degree of opposition by entrenched national interests. So what is emerging is a loose functional confederation, in which member states retain considerable autonomy, but accept the commitment to abide by the rules of the club and to take into account the fellow-member's needs when framing policies; a confederation in which in some areas, but by no means in all, the main focus of decision-making has passed from national to supra-national level. Such a structure is likely to prove durable so long as it remains flexible, and the frontiers of national sovereignty are likely to change with changing pressures and circumstances.

But it is this pragmatic evolutionary process is to continue, there has to be more effective planning at the centre to try to anticipate the critical issues, and to suggest ways in which they might be defused. For what is clear is that the Community is moving daily more deeply into territory where the Treaty of Rome gives little guidance, and where new insights are needed.

In default of a European "Brookings" and one hope very much that some such independent but authoritative European "think-tank" will be in operation before long—such forward planning can only effectively be done at the level of the Commission. Now that Mr Jenkins and his team have settled in, and the crisis atmosphere of the past few years shows signs of simmering down, it is extremely important that they should concentrate on establishing the structures, and laying down the guidelines, whereby Europe can begin for the first time to plan its future. It is on this, in the last analysis, that history will judge them.

Michael Shanks

Why the world of Elizabeth I was not so unlike our own

The jubilee this year has not provoked the parallel of a new Elizabethan age that was such a platitude 25 years ago. Perhaps it seems so obvious that there can be no real comparison between the present state of declining influence and self-confidence with the virile and expansionist England of Gloriana, Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare. The first Elizabethans, as we all know from infancy, were full of creativity and achievement, and had little in common with us in mood.

Or did they? Perhaps a few words from the old Elizabethans—not entirely selected out of context—may suggest that both Elizabethan ages have much in common—certainly in sharing the traditional English self-depreciation and idolization of the past.

The justice Ralph Rokeby is one of numerous Elizabethans who sounded like a disgruntled correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph*: "In these our times," he wrote, "honest behaviour and fair conditions are so far gone to decay, that the fellow-member's proverb is refuted. 'Oh! it is not now as it was in times past when we were young men.' A government committee considering legislation a little earlier, 1558, could have been voicing the law and order arguments of four centuries later: men could only be made better by fear of punishment, for 'by the looseness of the times no other remedy is left but by a law to acquaint men with virtue again'."

Pessimistic voices from the early days, before the glories of the reign had produced optimism? But the queen herself, at the end of her life, could look back nostalgically to the simpler, violent but straightforward middle ages: "In those days force and arms did prevail, but now the wit of the fox is everywhere on foot, so as hardly a faithful and virtuous man may be found."

There was general agreement on one main cause of the loosening of the times—lack of discipline, especially among the young. Black Paper philosophies were common property even among men now thought of as radical. Was it not the early Protestant Reformation which "newly saw, surely, so little discipline as nowadays"? "Alas," he cried, "where is this discipline now in England?" The queen's own tutor, Roger Ascham, is remembered for his progress *of the schoolmaster*, which urged gentle and pleasurable instruction, but it too looked back to a golden age which only firm teaching could restore. For lack of private discipline "everywhere innocence is



Elizabeth I: her inspiration gave birth to a legend.

gone, bashfulness is banished, much presumption in youth, small authority in age, reverence is neglected, duties be confounded." His patron and the queen's chief minister, Burghley, agreed with the diagnosis and differed only in putting the blame on parents more than schooling: "the unthrifty looseness of youth in this age was the parents' fault, who made them men seven years too soon, having but children's judgments."

A generation later the complaints had not lessened. An epitaph to a York couple (1599) could record baldly that their 16 children were "not bad, as children now are, but all good"; and as for adolescents, there is the shepherd's wish in *The Winter's Tale* that "there were no age but twelve ten and three and twenty... for there is nothing in the between but getting wench with child, wronging the ancients, stealing, fighting...". The sins of the flesh, indeed, attracted their usual share of grotesquely exaggerated comment. The *First Book of Homilies*, familiar to all Elizabethans from regular readings in church, declared boldly that "above other vices the outrageous seas of adultery... whoredom, fornication, and uncleanness have... overflowed almost the whole world." The preachers of the Festival of Light seem pallid beside a figure like Cartwright, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, who wished to enforce the Old Testament death penalties for adultery and blasphemy; and Mrs Whitehouse might blush at the sweeping condemnation of pernicious influences like the theatre that, it seems, created the first Elizabethan pessimists.

Induce whoredom and uncleanness? Nay, are they not rather plain devourers of maiden virtue and chastity? His kindred spirit, the preacher Thomas White, has

gone, bashfulness is banished, much presumption in youth, small authority in age, reverence is neglected, duties be confounded." His patron and the queen's chief minister, Burghley, agreed with the diagnosis and differed only in putting the blame on parents more than schooling: "the unthrifty looseness of youth in this age was the parents' fault, who made them men seven years too soon, having but children's judgments."

earned immortality for his allegory. "The cause of plagues is sin and the cause of sin are plagues; therefore the cause of plagues are plagues." And what of provocative female attire? "Such starting attire," wrote another clergyman, William Harrison, "as in times past was supposed meet for name but hath become a habit, in cloth and silver matrons, I have met with some of these trills in London as disguised that it hath passed my skill to discern whether they were men or women."

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Immigrants were blamed for native unemployment, and if they were European and not New Commonwealthers, Henry spoke with the same accent. "Aliens here have their way," a satirical poet declared as early as Henry VIII's time, "and Englishmen clean decay." And there was that perennial prevalence of the weather—perhaps with some justice in some later years of Elizabeth, when crops failed disastrously. "Our years are turned up-side-down," preached John King in 1595. "Our summers are no summers, our harvests are no harvests." And the moral climate was deteriorating in sympathy, if the old men with long memories could be trusted. John Stow, looking back to the good old days before the Reformation, spoke of the present time (1598) as "the most scoffing, disrespectful, and unthankful age that ever was."

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David Palliser

The author is lecturer in modern and recent history at the University of Birmingham.

Bernard Levin

Wanted, some impeccable tales of Kai Lung

I quoted Kai Lung the other day and was met by a look in which there was no glimmer of recognition. Yet surely I cannot be the last among the living to remember, and indeed to read still, that enchanting and unique series of books? I appear to have only three on my shelves—*Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat*, *The Wallet of Kai Lung* and *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*—so no doubt my proselytizing fervour has led me, over the years, to thrust other volumes into the hands of potential converts, for there were several more collections of the tales, and I collected them all assiduously. (If the proselytizing worked, let the converts be easy in their consciences, for if they are new to the company of the blessed, I bear them no grudge for their deceptions.)

The Kai Lung stories were written by a man whose pen-name was Ernest Bramah, the surname being an adaptation of his mother's maiden name; he was really Ernest Bramah Smith. And he kept himself so entirely and fanatically out of the limelight that, until an

American enthusiast, William White, published an article about him in the *American Book Collector* in 1966, his name, together with the fact that he died in 1942, was absolutely all that was known about him; only Julius, the Tichborne Claimant, and E. Travençolo to elude identification more thoroughly. His very *Who's Who* entry listed nothing but the titles of his books—not even his year of birth was recorded—and his publishers and literary agents used to declare that they had met him only a handful of times in several decades, and then briefly.

William White, in the article I have mentioned, explained that he first became interested in the author by acquiring an addition to the books, and was then even more fascinated by the difficulty of finding out anything more about him. But a series of chances led him to a cache of Bramahiana at Texas University—the very walls and floors of that infinitely hospitable institution must be in danger of collapse from the immensity of manuscripts and other literary memorabilia it houses already, and to which it adds daily by the freight-trainful, and from this together with assiduous researches in England, he was

able to piece together about as much biographical material as would enter a marchbook-label or two. It seems that Smith-Bramah was born in 1868, died farming without success, then moved into journalism; that it is possible to trace his life and movements in some detail (for instance, he went to Manchester Grammar School from his early childhood until 1897, when he was 29; and that for the remaining 45 years of his life he vanishes as completely as Villon when he got his head out of the hangman's noose for the last time.

The books remain. And they offer a particular kind of delight—that is, now, from our literature. Some of the ingredients still exist: his beautifully-tailored style, for instance—reminiscent of a more robust Logan Pearsall Smith, a less cruel Evelyn Waugh, an unromanticized Woodhouse—written with his delightful wit (the barb so carefully concealed that it only begins to sting some time after it has been withdrawn), his fantastic and apparently effortless imagery, and his almost imperceptible yet very stured philosophical stance.

These are all rare enough today, and the combination of them is rarer still, but what

Bramah added when all those strands were woven together was a thing which is now missing from even the best literary work: he never raised his voice, and he never buried.

Those who have followed me so far without managing to discover anything at all about the contents or substance of the books I am writing about may be forgiven if they conclude through clenched teeth that there is at least one man writing today who also conceives ideas. But the truth is that the art of Ernest Bramah, at any rate in the Kai Lung stories (he also wrote a series about a blind detective called Max Carrados, and for that matter a work called *A Guide to the Varieties and Rarities of English Regal Copper Coins: Charles II—Victoria*) is so elusive that it is very difficult indeed to encapsulate for those to whom it is unknown.

The tales are recounted by an indigenous Chinese storyteller, Kai Lung, and some of the flavour of the work comes from his quaintly quaint descriptions of himself and his trade, couched in that curious self-deprecatory style that is supposed to be (or to have been) the trademark of the Chinese. My unbecoming name is Kai,

to which has been added that of Lung, a product of an indefinable mixture of imagined things, and to this end I spread my mat wherever my upturned voice can entice together a company to listen. Should my feeble efforts be deemed worthy of reward, those who stand around my perchance contribute to my scanty store, but sometimes this is judged superfluous.

The tales themselves are usually set in a context: that is, they are not simply a string of stories but are told for a particular reason, generally to get the story-teller out of some difficulty or danger. Indeed, in the most substantial of the books, *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*, is almost a novel, every one of the tales is narrated in order to postpone his own execution from day to day, rather like Scheherazade, and at the end he manages to turn the tables entirely on his unjust accuser.

The stories are strewn with mock-Chinese images, rubrics and proverbs. "It is a mark of insincerity of purpose to seek for the Emperor in the low-class tea-shops." "He who is compelled to share a cavern with a tiger learns to stroke the tiger's back." "In shallow water dragons

become the laughing-stock of swamps"—each of which is delicately but perfectly fitted to the particular use made of it, the analogy it is designed to point up. And he can provide the seasaw with two ends:

"Of the Mandarin himself those who know speak with vague lips. What is done is done by the pressing hand of one Ming-shu, who takes down his spoken word; of whom it is truly said that he bears little resemblance to a man and still less to an angel."

"Yes," protested the story-teller hopefully, "it is wisely written. 'He who never opens his mouth in strife can always close his eyes in peace.'"

"Doubtless," assented the other. "He can close his eyes assuaged. Whether he will ever again open them is another matter."

Even from those few examples I think that the gentle rhythm of the prose can be felt, but what cannot be conveyed by brief citations is the very crisp attitudes he held. To call them moral would be to risk overlooking his fragile samsan, but they are: humble righteousness (which Kai Lung represents) is invariably victorious, and the stories them-

selves, though some of them are short through with a much cynicism that is full of relish, generally show the grasping and the oppressive cast down. But whether Bramah is pointing some simple truth, or merely spinning his perfumed web, he is full of a ringing wit that keeps the reader with a perpetual smile of pleasure on his face. Try another sample, this one from a conversation between a youth reluctant to embark on matrimony and his grandfather urging him to it:

"Is there not one Ning of the worthy line of Lo, dwelling beneath the emblem of a Sprouting Aloe?"

"Truly," agreed the youth; "but as an early age he came under the malign influence of a spectral vampire, and in order to deceive the creature she was adopted to the navigable portion of the river here, and being pronounced as having passed above was henceforth regarded as a red muller."

"Yet in what detail does that deter you?" inquired Chang, for the answer of the young son's expression betrayed an acute absence of enthusiasm towards the maiden thus concerned.

"Perchance the vampire was not deceased after all. In any case this person dislikes red

muller," replied the youth indignantly. "The cause of plagues is sin and the cause of sin are plagues; therefore the cause of plagues are plagues." And what of provocative female attire? "Such starting attire," wrote another clergyman, William Harrison, "as in times past was supposed meet for name but hath become a habit, in cloth and silver matrons, I have met with some of these trills in London as disguised that it hath passed my skill to discern whether they were men or women."

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David Palliser

The author is lecturer in modern and recent history at the University of Birmingham.

Food, glorious food—and the long wait ends

Having listened for more years than I care to remember to the workhouse boys from *Oliver!* vainly sighing for food glorious food, I felt distinctly relieved on Wednesday night to watch them tucking into a feast.

Not only that, but unlike Dickens's pathetic original, they asked for more—and were given it.

Lionel Bart's lyrics inspired the menu: hot sausage and mustard, cold jelly and custard, pea and potato soup, and, as the "great big steak" emerged as beef casserole, but I heard not a single complaint.

Oliver! has taken up residence in London, at the Albany, after a rip-roaring provincial tour. For Wednesday nights after-the-show gourmandizing, cast and guests erupted on to the stage from the auditorium.

Dodging the midnight saveloy munchers, I managed to have a word with Mr Bart himself. He is now solvent once again and looks it. He is acting as consultant on the present

revival of *Oliver!* and still seems confident that *Quasimodo*, his musical version of the Hugo novel which has been an on-off idea since the early Sixties, will open in London some time next year. He would not reveal his choice for the role of the hunchback.

I liked the way he summed up the essential difference between *Oliver!* and *Quasimodo*. "*Oliver!*'s basic theme is: What is Love? *Quasimodo*'s theme will be: What is ugliness?"

An hour earlier I had watched a spotlight smite Mr Bart as he stood up in the stalls to acknowledge the roars of the post-night audience. It was a demonstration of warmth that stopped just short of hysteria.

Memories stirred... the night, now almost historic, in the same theatre (though it was then *The New*) when *Oliver!* took its bow in the West End. Could it really be as long ago as June 30, 1960?

I hope nobody is going to get all hot under the collar about the column marked WOG on invoices from *Head's*, the department store. It means, simply, *With Other Goods*.

Strong counter attack in defence of the gnome

I have called down on my head the wrath of gnome-lovers because of my less than ecstatic reception of the news that a Gnome Club of Great Britain is being planned. I am accused of being unfeeling, unimaginative, pompous and insulting. That final charge worries me the most. It implies that there really could be such things as gnomes, and the dread inference I draw from that sentiment is that the projected club might become a reality after all.

A milder reproach, in the form of a shrewdly timed PR exercise, comes from New English Library. They have sent me a copy of a sumptuously produced book called *Gnomes* which strikes me as being the ultimate in leg-pulls.

Wil Huygen's text on the life style of the gnome is straightforward and affectionate and the many colour illustrations by Rien Poortvliet should make garden-gnome manufacturers hang their heads in shame at their own crude handiwork.

My only fear is that the book makes out such a convincing case for the existence of the gnome that the more incensed of my critics will send me a copy of it, bearing some such legend as "Boo sucks: now try saying there aren't such things!"

To save him (or her) the expense, I refer him/her to an editorial note on the jacket. It refers, without ambiguity, to "made-up reality."

And if he/she lives in Greater London, which seems likely from the postmark, I would refer him/her to the map in the book which shows that there are no gnome colonies in the area and that his/her report of sightings is probably the result of drinking too much mead dew, a beverage to which the book says the gnome is partial.

Some do's and don'ts for America's Everyman

Thorough and thoughtful as always, the United States Air Force has provided British journalists visiting Berlin with a document entitled *Customs in Germany*. It contains advice for newly arrived servicemen.

It tells them, for example, about attitudes: "Unfortunately, the typical American in the eyes of many Europeans is a loud, rowdy, loud, impolite, boastful, and impatient."

"You may be asked questions about the United States and the American way of life. Answer questions frankly and do not always add or boast 'of course everything is better in the States'. Also be aware of sensitivities concerning past history."

What is most useful, I suspect, is the explanation of the natives' habits. "When Germans eat, the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right, cutting each bite just before eating it. The food is carried with fork in the left hand. 'Also, when eating food which needs no cutting, the hand not in use is put on the table next to the plate, contrary to the American custom of placing it on the lap. A special fish knife is used when eating fish."



When K stands for compromise

Knoedler's, the famous old firm of New York art dealers, taken over by the oil magnate Armand Hammer in 1970, is reuniting its London branch in New Bond Street.

The New York gallery's new managing director, Lawrence Rubin, has persuaded John Kasmin to form an equal partnership called Knoedler Kasmin Ltd and run the gallery in revamped premises at Savoy and Moore House, opposite Sotheby's.

The lively and much liked Mr Kasmin has his own gallery near by in Bond Street from 1962 to 1972, where he showed such artists as David Hockney, whom he still represents, and leading American abstract painters like Frank Stella, the subject of his opening exhibition with Knoedler.

After closing the Kasmin Gallery he dealt for five years from first floor premises in Clifford Street. His old partner, Lord Dufferin and Ava is remaining with him.

By the time Mr Hammer took over Knoedler's, it had lost a good deal of the reflected glory of its heyday, when it helped build most of the big American

Why the eagle had to go

Archbishop Seraphim, the Orthodox Primate of Greece, was obliged to change completely the design of his personal standard—a black, byzantine double-headed eagle set against a yellow-gold background—when he found that it looked very much like the emblem of a well-known football team.

It appears that every time he grove past in his limousine with his flag flying, the team's supporters would cheer or hoot abuse, depending on the team's performance in their last match.

The new standard carries the byzantine monogram of Jesus-X with a superimposed F.

A ballpoint pen on sale at a London comprehensive school bears the legend: *Rockley Comprehensive*.

Why the eagle had to go



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A NEW MAN AT THE FED

During his eight years as Chairman of the American Federal Reserve Board Dr Arthur Burns has become a symbol of financial rectitude at home and abroad. He has been a fearless champion of the use of monetary policy in the battle against inflation and has fought to preserve the independence of the Fed from the executive branch of government.

The existence of a strong and independent central bank makes the pursuit of a non-inflationary monetary policy both easier and more likely. It acts as a brake on the typically more freely-spending government, and ensures that monetary as well as fiscal objectives are considered in the formulation of economic policy. It is to be hoped that Dr Burns will remain on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System and continue to make a strong contribution to American monetary policy. However, the position of the Fed on the key issues now facing America will depend on his successor, Mr G. William Miller.

The Federal Reserve Board has been at the centre of recent controversy over whether there is a need for more government action to stimulate expansion in America. It has been severely criticised by the American Congress for following an over-restrictive credit policy and for counteracting fiscal stimulus with monetary tightness. In fact the money supply this year has

consistently overshot the growth targets set by the Fed, although by no more than for example in West Germany.

Despite his reputation as a financial conservative Dr Burns waited for some time before raising interest rates in an attempt to curb the excessive money growth. The two point rise in the autumn, while attacked by expansionists in Congress and obliquely by the Administration itself, was no more than was consistent with the faster growing economy. The problem for next year is how to maintain the growth in America, which has been so much greater this year than in the rest of the industrialized world, without tipping the balance towards faster inflation.

President Carter has made clear his intention to administer a fiscal stimulus to the economy through tax cuts in the spring. He believes that the danger of renewed recession now outweighs that of a resurgence in inflation. There are increasing signs that world growth, which has been much less than hoped and indeed expected this year, will be even more disappointing next. The possibility of slump in 1978 is a real one. In this context the willingness of America to lead all the other industrialized nations must be welcomed. It is, however, essential that a firm grip on the money supply is maintained in the United States as elsewhere. Mr Miller's role will thus be crucial.

His views are not yet known.

to the public. As the President's own appointment he is likely to be more sympathetic to the aims of the White House than was Dr Burns. It has been thought in Washington that the present Chairman is very doubtful about the need for considerable further stimulus. Mr Miller has spoken about the need to combat unemployment and inflation together, and to coordinate monetary and fiscal policy to this end.

Although Mr Miller is not expected to oppose the thrust of the President's measures to stimulate the economy it is to be hoped that he will use his position to ensure that growth is non-inflationary. A larger fiscal deficit need not finance further inflation if the money supply is kept under firm control. The use of fiscal deficits to combat the present failure of the industrialized world to grow is winning new advocates. The huge balance of payments surpluses of the oil exporting nations have been a drag on the world growth. To some extent the fiscal deficits in the major countries are the counter-part to this. A monetary policy which combined with fiscal policy to keep inflation under control while effectively attacking unemployment would be fine if it were feasible. It may prove, however, that the only monetary policy which controls inflation is one which slows growth through its effect on interest rates. If so, Mr Miller will have to fight hard for monetary control.

NO MORE TO BE GOT OUT OF IT

It is seldom that a group of workers goes on strike with such a sense of rectitude as the firemen have shown. The quite exceptional eagerness of ordinary union members to justify their position to the press and the public indicates that the cynical or apathetic spirit in which so many strikers in other industries obey the call to come out has little place in this dispute. When the delegate meeting of the Fire Brigades Union called the strike last month, many of those voting must have imagined that the action would be brief, or that the Government would capitulate merely under the threat of it; fire stations have in effect been manned throughout the strike by pickets ready to act whenever life is in danger.

This very conviction of righteousness together with a lack of familiarity with the hard realities of industrial power politics, has caused the strikers to persist in their action with a determination that would be admirable in other contexts. It is no small thing to endure seven weeks without strike pay, and it is bitter to face the possibility of

defeat after so long. But yesterday's long meeting of the FBV executive showed that divisions in the union are becoming sharper, even though the executive failed in the end to accept the logic of the situation that confronts it. Only a second delegate conference has power to end the strike before its objects have been fully achieved. The executive should have called a delegate conference and made a firm recommendation that it should endorse a return to work.

The terms offered three weeks ago already concede the main point that the union sought to establish. They offer guarantees of a permanent improvement in long-term status which were not on offer at the outset of the strike and which many other groups of workers would grasp at eagerly. A fireman's pay would be related to the movement of average earnings in such a way that it would rise over the next two years to parity with the average earnings of skilled workers (those in the top quarter of the industrial league) from their current level close to the average of all workers in

industry. Pay would be maintained thereafter at the same relative level. But the firemen still insist on 30 per cent now, instead of the 10 per cent offered. Everything that has happened during the strike has made it seem less likely that they have any hope of getting it. The TUC general council has rejected an invitation to have a most important, the local authority manual workers, who were originally demanding 30 per cent or more, have settled for 10. Some of the union leaders involved made it clear then that they would be back for more if their employers made settlements elsewhere in breach of the Government's guidelines. Not only the Government, but also an increasing number of workers, have good reason to oppose the general rule that the firemen hope to stir up. There is far too much at stake now for them to be allowed to win a hopeless battle can only do lasting harm to the fire service and prolong the public danger, to no realistic end.

Pay and pensions in Civil Service

From Lord Orr-Ewing

Sir, For more than three years there has been pressure in both Houses of Parliament for a more objective way of calculating pay and pensions in the Civil Service, so that they are comparable with industry. On November 18 (without much publicity or subsequent press comment), the Lord Privy Seal announced a new arrangement for supervising the Pay Research Unit.

Many of us have been pressing for a reconstitution of this unit, with an independent chairman and at least half the members coming from outside the Civil Service. It has been argued for several years that the value of virtual "monopoly" fully indexed pensions and other advantages were worth more than the 12 per cent reduction in salaries which was subtracted from Civil Service pay to give comparability with the private sector.

The Government have retained 100 per cent Civil Service meaning of the PRU. The "independent" viewpoint will be put by a new body to be set up by the Prime Minister. The Director of the PRU will be an ex officio member of this supervisory board. The chairman and all the members will be appointed by the Prime Minister from outside the Civil Service.

Enormous sums are at stake, and if justice is to be done, it is essential that the supervisory board should be made up of people who are not involved in the pay and pension field. It is to my mind essential that the Institute of Actuaries should be brought into the picture when mathematical formulae and assumptions have to be made. It should not be left in the hands of the Government Actuaries Department, who, once again, are civil servants.

Finally, the Government announce that new procedures are not to come into effect until 1979 (or 1980 in the case of scientists). The PRU has been in suspense since July, 1976, and it is all too easy to dismiss such reactions as a frustrated desire for retribution and revenge. While perhaps few would wish now to go along with Fitzmaurice Stephen in his desire that "criminals should be punished", it is not surprising that some of us should express to that hatred. Parliament has not yet legislated away the principle that grave crimes, of which homicides are surely among the gravest, ought to be marked, other things remaining equal, with sentences which reflect that gravity. None of the circumstances ordinarily associated with the passing of a life sentence, or even a long term of imprisonment, seem to be a severe provocation "mercy" killing, and so forth—seems to have been present in Liddle's case. A sentence of 12 months cannot, in all seriousness, reflect the gravity of this crime, the circumstances of which were characterised by a high degree of deliberation.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON,
House of Lords,
December 27.

Reform of Parliament

From Mr Richard Luce, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, Sir William Haver, in his letter of December 28, is both defeatist and uninformed about Parliament. This is most characteristic of him. He is a member of the House of Commons and has no excuse in the sweeping condemnation that follows.

I believe that there is an urgent need to strengthen the legislature. The House of Commons is the only body which can force a reforming committee on a sovereign Parliament. The House of Commons set up such a committee in 1976.

It is significant that every article I hold on the question of a reform of Parliament is read by the public and is shaped in and by South Africa. When I returned to that country in 1962 after graduation, I was deeply sensitive to criticisms of the House of Commons. At that time Africanists intellectuals were attempting to refine apartheid out of its crude origins and had coined the phrase "separate development". There was talk of massive redistribution of land to make the "homelands" viable entities, self-governing for blacks based on traditional forms of development, and a new competition for whites, etc.

At the age of 22, I attached myself enthusiastically to this so-called verligte movement, and in fact made a film for the South African Broadcasting Corporation, *The Anatomy of Apartheid*. It was the most important lesson of my life. The film had given me unlimited access to townships and "homelands" where blacks, instead of being introduced to their own people, pointed out the wide gap between

theory and intention—let alone practice. The lesson learnt was that a film maker must try not to bring any preconception to a subject. He must observe at least twice the time he intends to spend on his actual filming to his preliminary research, and he must rely absolutely on his own personal sense of right and wrong and that of his close working colleagues.

Above all, he must declare the subjectivity that guides him. I attempted to apply these principles, even when I lived in South Africa. All my research notes on the next documentary were confiscated by the police, and I was detained and cross-examined on two occasions that year. In 1967, it was made clear to me by a senior official that my career as a documentary film maker in South Africa was finished.

The South African authorities may now regret the fact that they allowed me back to this country. I cannot accuse me of hasty judgement. Indeed, I have seen "apartheid" from both sides, and my recent documentary films have emerged from that experience. What has happened in the past regime, as well as its British backers and apologists is that millions of Britons have had the opportunity to share a hard-won truth. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY R. THOMAS,
Monnow Cottage, Clodock, Longtown, Herefordshire.

Licensing photocopying

From Professor T. E. Allibone, FRSL

Sir, I write as one of the members of the 1952 Copyright Committee to support the objections raised by Professor Beinnart and others in the University of London (Letters, December 24) to the proposed abolition of the right to have single copies of copyright works made by photocopying machines for one's own use for private study or research. The Whitford Report recommends that a blanket licensing system be introduced so that fees may be collected for owners of copyrights.

The 1952 Committee was anxious that our copyright law should be close to the Brussels Convention of the Berne Union; freedom to make photocopies under certain well-defined restrictions is enjoyed by citizens of European countries without a licensing system being enforced and such freedom ought not to be denied to us.

A transition period for Palestinians

From Lord Caradon

Sir, In recent years I have many times travelled through the towns and villages of the West Bank, and listened in many meetings to the views of the Palestinians. They are of one mind in their hope for a state—small it is true but their own—in which they can take their own decisions, elect their own leaders and run their own government.

They have told me, moreover, that they dearly long for a period of freedom and transition—say two years—in which they can again engage in political discussion and decide their own fate and plan their own future. And they are determined to live in close association and cooperation with Jordan and with all their neighbours.

This idea of a period of constructive transition may provide a way out of the impasse in the present discussions on the Palestinian issue between Egypt and Israel.

How would it be for the area in dispute to be placed under international trusteeship for a period of two years during which time a boundary commission would hear both sides and make recommendations as to the border between them,

the Palestinians would prepare their own constitution and elect their own government, and international guarantees backed by an international peace force would come into effect?

Continual self-determination for the Palestinians is essential. But self-determination cannot be immediate. Nor can it be long postponed. A plan for international supervision and guarantee for an adequate period would be more acceptable and much more justified than any attempt at sudden transformation or indefinite postponement.

We have now suffered ten years of delay and division and drift. After a short period of hysterical hope there is a dreadful danger of sinking back into hopeless and most dangerous stagnation.

What is now required, I suggest, is an urgent international initiative in favour of an international transition—a transition to Palestinian freedom and Israeli security. Neither is possible without the other. Both are still attainable. Yours sincerely,
HUGH CARADON,
Trenanton Castle,
Selkirk,
Cornwall.
December 28.

Manslaughter sentence

From Professor Terence Morris

Sir, Contrary to a good deal of critical opinion the majority of High Court Judges, when sentencing offenders, usually manage to get the sentence right, in terms of what is a reasonable combination of punishment, deterrence, and an expression of sober public attitudes towards the crime in question. When, however, they get it wrong they seem sometimes to get the sentence hopelessly wrong.

In this context I would suggest that Mr Justice Lawson in passing a sentence of 12 months imprisonment on Ralph Liddle at Winchester Crown Court after he had been found not guilty of murder, but guilty of the manslaughter of a young man of 18 made such an error. The reaction of the boy's father, a man who had served the public as a police officer in Hampshire for 20 years, in resigning from the force is as regrettable as it is understandable. It is all too easy to dismiss such reactions as a frustrated desire for retribution and revenge. While perhaps few would wish now to go along with Fitzmaurice Stephen in his desire that "criminals should be punished", it is not surprising that some of us should express to that hatred. Parliament has not yet legislated away the principle that grave crimes, of which homicides are surely among the gravest, ought to be marked, other things remaining equal, with sentences which reflect that gravity. None of the circumstances ordinarily associated with the passing of a life sentence, or even a long term of imprisonment, seem to be a severe provocation "mercy" killing, and so forth—seems to have been present in Liddle's case. A sentence of 12 months cannot, in all seriousness, reflect the gravity of this crime, the circumstances of which were characterised by a high degree of deliberation.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE MORRIS,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street,
Aldwych, WC2.
December 21.

Documentary on S Africa

From Mr Antony R. Thomas

Sir, Your leading article on the subject of the television discussion programme following the last film in the series *The South African Experience* on December 21, raises crucial issues about a film maker's responsibility to his public.

It is significant that every article I hold on the question of a reform of Parliament is read by the public and is shaped in and by South Africa. When I returned to that country in 1962 after graduation, I was deeply sensitive to criticisms of the House of Commons. At that time Africanists intellectuals were attempting to refine apartheid out of its crude origins and had coined the phrase "separate development". There was talk of massive redistribution of land to make the "homelands" viable entities, self-governing for blacks based on traditional forms of development, and a new competition for whites, etc.

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theory and intention—let alone practice. The lesson learnt was that a film maker must try not to bring any preconception to a subject. He must observe at least twice the time he intends to spend on his actual filming to his preliminary research, and he must rely absolutely on his own personal sense of right and wrong and that of his close working colleagues.

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The South African authorities may now regret the fact that they allowed me back to this country. I cannot accuse me of hasty judgement. Indeed, I have seen "apartheid" from both sides, and my recent documentary films have emerged from that experience. What has happened in the past regime, as well as its British backers and apologists is that millions of Britons have had the opportunity to share a hard-won truth. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY R. THOMAS,
Monnow Cottage, Clodock, Longtown, Herefordshire.

National Land Fund

From Mrs Ruth Colyer

Sir, The House of Commons Select Committee on Public Expenditure may, it seems, recommend the allocation of the remaining part of the National Land Fund to a new institution empowered to use it to retain in Britain treasures liable to be exported. Admirable as this purpose may be, the very name "Land Fund" surely implies that some of it be spent on treasured landscapes: though not exportable, their natural beauty, their value as a habitat of flora and fauna and their accessibility to the public are at risk from modern agribusiness.

All the British soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives in the war gave them for their Native Land; so it is fitting that a fund established as their memorial should safeguard the original landscape as well as paintings of them. To quote Gerard Manley Hopkins: "After covers cannot guess the beauty been."

Yours faithfully,
RUTH COLYER,
Orchardside,
Shillingstone,
Blandford,
Dorset.
December 28.

Protest against apartheid

From the Reverend Paul Oestreicher

Sir, Dulwich College, argues Mr C. D. Hoare (December 28), should not have refused to play rugby against the Diocesan College, Cape Town. The refusal, he tells us, caused white South African liberals to react with emotions "ranging from disappointment to downright anger". That reaction only proves how right the headmaster of Dulwich was to call off the match. Mr Hoare's long letter wastes no words on the feelings of the majority of South Africans who are black, poor and oppressed. They would be gratified and encouraged by such an act of solidarity for away in London. The wealthy white parents who send their children to this church school would like it to be integrated is true of some of them and of Anglican church leaders. So far, that has made no practical difference. Unlike some, Roman Catholic school, this Anglican college has not admitted black pupils in defiance of government policy. Until it does, it would be deeply insulting to the majority of Cape Town's children to accept its sporting credentials.

During this past year black children have suffered intolerably. In protest against their pathetic situation, some educational institutions have gone on to the streets. Their stones have been answered with police bullets. Many have been killed. This is what even those white South Africans who dislike apartheid manage again and again to ignore.

Possibly before too long the Diocesan College will be permitted to integrate. But 98 per cent of black parents could not even begin to find fees which even many whites cannot afford. When wealthy white parents agree to make genuine integration possible by finding the money to pay for black pupils in large numbers, the time will have come for friendly football matches.

To his credit the captain of the Dulwich team refused to play. I am reluctant to believe that the headmaster cancelled the match in ignorance of the moral issue and only because he feared a hostile demonstration.

I write not only as a trustee of South Africa's now banned Christian Institute but as an Anglican priest in Lewisham, only two miles from Dulwich College. Having some knowledge of the discussions that preceded the cancellation I can say that the Bishops of Southwark and Woolwich, in opposing this match, were keenly aware of the implications of such an issue for race relations on our own doorstep.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL OESTREICHER,
Ascension Vicarage,
Dartmouth Row, SE10.

Arnhem tribute

From Mrs David Noyce

Sir, I am disappointed that a recent significant event seems to have passed unnoticed by your newspaper.

On Sunday December 18 the people of Arnhem paid tribute to the courage and bravery of the small British force who held the north end of their famous road bridge for four days in September 1944 against eventually overwhelming odds. They have renamed the bridge the John Frost Bridge in honour of the then Lieutenant Colonel John Frost, DSO, MC, the commander of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, whose men mainly comprised the force.

The Dutch writer who ruled that bridges in Holland may not be named after the living and, as part of a civic ceremony involving the opening of a new road bridge across the Rhine, the old bridge was renamed in the presence of Major General (Retd) John Frost, CB, DSO, MC.

Although of a generation younger than those involved in the 1944 conflict, I was immensely moved by this warm gesture and, in this somewhat cynical age, feel unashamedly proud and grateful for General Frost and men and women of courage like him, who have put and risked their lives at risk in the service of their nation.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA NOYCE,
HQ P & SS (Germany),
RAF Rheinbaben,
BFPO 40.

In Regent's Park

From Mr J. D. Judah

Sir, No one doubts the vitality of the sculpture in the Regent's Park. It is its impact on the surroundings which concerns some of us. After all, the work of John Nash is itself a magnificent example of British art; but it is being invaded by objects which neither enhance the original surroundings nor themselves appear happy against their background. For example, there is a new permanent art installation, a concrete bowl in the open air theatre, a concrete waterfall in the rose garden and to the north of Morecombe and Wise, one notices a series of new artefacts.

The park is something to offer everyone at all seasons of the year, and I don't believe that anyone's sense of humour would be at risk if the statue were moved. I fancy that there is a very suitable gallery for it not a stone's throw from Baker Street.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. JUDAH,
14 Clarence Gate Gardens, NW1.

Divine light

From Mr Paul Newman

Sir, The idea of red and green lights in confessionals to indicate whether they're occupied or not is not a recent innovation, as PRS infer in his note (December 21) on a new Catholic church in Richmond. Our local RC church, St Joseph's, has had them for some three years. . . but then Buckinghamshire has so often been ahead of the times, despite its reputation as a conservative, reactionary county.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL NEWMAN,
Claremont,
The Queensway,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

PUTTING THE TEST TO THE TEST

For its latest test of the MoT vehicle safety test, Drive, the magazine of the Automobile Association, bought an old banger and trailed it round the garages of England and Wales. No one passed it, but there was wide inconsistency in the identification of its defects and the severity with which they were condemned. To this Mr Arthur Johnson, the chairman of the Motor Agents Association's technical panel, has replied: "I went to a number of doctors, dentists or solicitors with a problem, I'd end up with different views and advice. It all boils down to interpretation."

Mr Johnson puts his finger on the most important point of the case against him. Medical, dental and legal advice is taken from people in whose training, competence and professional honesty a reasonable measure of confidence can be placed. Yet so, has to be said with garage mechanics—not that is to say, the same measure of confidence. Yet they are empowered to grant or withhold the test certificate which statute requires and to order (subject to appeal) repairs to be done as a condition of issuing a certificate. It is a responsibility which is easily abused, either deliberately by careless inspection, or venally by taking bribes, or profiting from unnecessary repairs.

Fewer immigrants

From Mr Ian Martin

Sir, Three major factors lie behind the fall in the numbers of immigrants admitted for settlement in the third quarter of this year which you report today (December 22).

The fall of 52 per cent in the admission of British citizens reflects the fact that very few vouchers are now being taken up in East Africa and the fall is continuing in the first nine months of this year only 1,499 vouchers were issued towards an announced quota of 5,000. Despite this British citizens in India, almost all of whom went there from East Africa in desperation when the quota prevented them from entering Britain, must still wait three years for vouchers. Why has the Government failed to reallocate unused vouchers to reduce this waiting period?

The fall of 30 per cent in the admission of Bangladeshis reflects a dramatic rise in the proportion of applications refused, which was 10 per cent of applications processed in early 1976 and had leapt to 33 per cent in the second quarter of this year. It would be highly implausible to assert that such a dramatic increase reflected changing proportions of genuine and bogus applications. The truth is, as Mr Alex Lyon, MP, told the Select Committee on race relations and immigration that since his dismissal "the officials have now taken it into their heads to do exactly as they want in the subcontinent."

The fall of 53 per cent in admissions of Indian citizens, however, does reflect the small number of applications now being made in India by dependants, other than newly-married spouses. It is thus early confirmation of the falsity of the conclusions of the Hawley

report that immigration from the Indian sub-continent would not decrease substantially when current applications from wives and children had been processed.

The belated attempts to clear the backlog of applications by wives and children in Pakistan, reflected in an increase in their admission, are to be welcomed. But the Home Secretary ought not this Christmas to be congratulating himself, as I suspect he is, on falling immigration. He ought to be feeling thoroughly ashamed at the hardship of divided Bangladeshis families and excluded Bangladeshi citizens in India at whose expense it has been brought about.

Yours sincerely,
IAN MARTIN,
General Secretary,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1,
December 22.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Wall Street and the dollar

It has been a miserable year on Wall Street. Volume in the market may have been close to record levels, but since much of it generated by institutions profits were at best modestly good for brokers. Prospects of a radical reshaping of the securities business have undoubtedly contributed to the dismal performance of Wall Street.

Moreover, such thoughts are bound to gain ground in coming months as the Securities and Exchange Commission takes key decisions on the future shape of a national market system.

Most agree that real gross national product growth in the coming year will be in excess of 4 per cent, with inflation rising only slightly to perhaps 6.5 per cent, and with unemployment falling moderately to about 6.4 per cent by the end of 1978. Prospects for such trends have been enhanced by President Carter's decision to cut taxes by \$25,000 next year and by Opec's decision to hold the line on oil prices.

So, there are grounds for some optimism on Wall Street. The President seems aware that much of the prevailing nervousness is of his own making and by the end of January he hopes to have issued public statements that will demonstrate his conservative fiscal policies and that he is sensitive to the declines in business profits, concerned about inflation and determined to balance the Federal budget.

On the monetary front there is some encouragement to be taken from recent money stock figures. They suggest that the Federal Reserve Board has finally got the money supply growth under control and that, as a result, a period of interest rate stability lies ahead.

Of course there is concern about the changes at the FED now that Mr William Miller is to replace Dr Burns as chairman. A new FED chief will unsettle market nerves initially but is unlikely to alter the FED's course much and when this becomes apparent, so the market's participants will turn their attention to other matters.

In the market itself there is every reason to believe that bargain hunting will continue, with tender offers continuing to become more common and with investors finally realizing how cheap so many solid corporations are. This realization itself should help strengthen prices. In the bond market prospects look good, although demand for funds from private and public sectors is likely to be well over \$310,000m, with greater differentials likely to emerge between the prices of good and less good municipal and corporate borrowers.

Nevertheless, foreign investors on Wall Street remain cautious. The dollar is weak and with a major energy battle ahead in the Congress, which is unlikely to produce the sort of policy that will sharply cut United States oil imports and with possibly a record trade deficit in prospect once again, a firm revival in the currency will be hard to achieve.

Europe/Far East

Realism and high expectations

Against a background of stagnating industrial production in OECD countries, only the German Commerzbank Index among the main continental bourses indices recorded a year-on-year rise during 1977.

With forecasts of world trade growth still being downgraded investors in Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris and Milan are not predicting any significant upturn in share values until well into the second half of 1978.

German shareholders' fortunes still rest largely on the prospect of a significant recovery in the dollar leading through to improved export competitiveness. Meanwhile, dividends, particularly from the steel and chemical majors, are declining sharply.

Amsterdam share prices have followed the German index down in recent weeks but worsening unemployment and a deteriorating balance of payments position in Holland now that gas revenues have peaked may accelerate the decline. Paris, which now holds the dubious distinction of being the cheapest international market on fundamentals, faces a nervous run-up to the spring elections, while in Italy the Christian Democrats' efforts to revive an almost moribund Milan bourse have yet to have any effect on declining share values.

Events in Japan are the key to what

happened throughout the Far East region, although domestic factors in individual countries were obviously important as well. As domestic demand in Japan slumped, and growth became more and more dependent on exports, the markets responded to worries about demand for raw materials, the appreciation of the yen, and the impact on their own industries of imports from Japan.

These developments manifested themselves spasmodically in the Tokyo market. Trading volume was thin until the last quarter, when it was stimulated by government reflation plans. Public sector related stocks benefited particularly. The recovery might have been more marked, had trade and currency discussions with the United States been more fruitful.

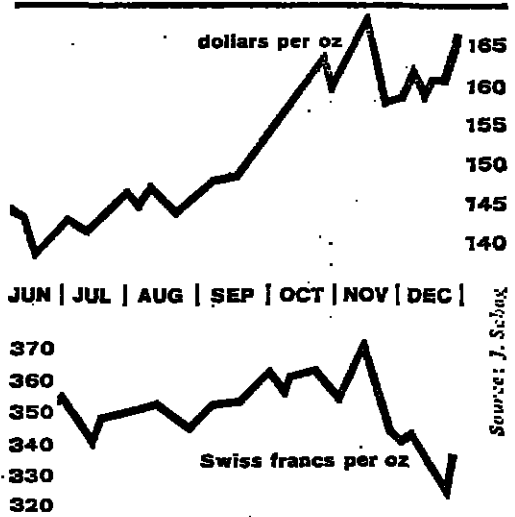
Falling interest rates and a marginal depreciation of the Yen, boosting exports, could put some heart back into the market. But few brokers expect little excitement.

Sluggish performance in Hongkong, the second biggest market in the region, was caused chiefly by two factors: a bearish attitude by British investors, and lower than expected export orders from the main markets of North America and Europe, accompanied by fears of import controls.

The Government's first exercise in counter-cyclical intervention, in the form of a massive public works programme, stimulated a property boom and generated considerable interest in property and related shares. But traditional leaders such as Jardine, Matheson and Hongkong and Shanghai Bank lagged far behind the market. The abolition of the premium dollar surrender rule could cause a switch by United Kingdom investors out of these stocks.

Small advances in Singapore and Sydney indices mainly derived from the underlying strength of the two economies. Singapore has established itself as a leading member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and has relaxed its somewhat hostile stance towards Malaysia and Indonesia, the major trading partners. Significant growth is anticipated in 1978, especially in standard stocks like Sime Darby.

GOLD AND THE DOLLAR



Gold has moved up smartly since just before Christmas reflecting the weakness of the dollar, and now uncertainty over future United States fiscal policies following news that Mr William Miller is to succeed Dr Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Mr Miller will be taking office at almost the same time as two other potentially important events for the gold price occur. The Group of Ten accord on the official gold price ends in February while the IMF articles should be ratified around then. The increased freedom of central banks to buy and sell could help gold unless there is a resumption of United States Treasury sales.

Over the last 12 months, gold has risen by about 24 per cent in dollar terms, but this has largely reflected the depreciation of the dollar. In Swiss franc terms, gold last week nearly touched its low for the year seen back in January, after falling sharply over the last six weeks. Profit taking is one factor, but also more gold than anticipated has come on to the market during the year. Portugal, for example, is believed to have sold some 80 tons and the Russians emerged more strongly as sellers in the second part of the year. Provisional estimates are that about 1,500 tons of gold have come on to the market during the course of the year.

Europe: the end of transition

Financial systems: a tortuous road towards harmonization

As one of the leading advocates of British membership of the European Economic Community, the City's high hopes at the time of entry five years ago have so far not been realised in any significant expansion of its activity in Europe.

Measured, for example, by the level of Britain's invisible exports, the EEC still accounts for only a small fraction of the Community's total at the beginning of the decade.

Steps to harmonize financial systems and the services sector generally have been characterized by continued bickering among the Nine. Too often national self-interest has appeared to be the guiding light rather than the "Common Market" ideals enshrined in the Treaty of Rome.

It is, for example, no easier for accountants, lawyers and the other professions to set up shop in Europe. Fairly ambitious schemes to harmonize banking and insurance systems within the Community have been abandoned for much more watered-down directives.

Lack of progress, it is true, on the more general economic and monetary union fronts has not helped the cause. Lately there have been some more promising signs that the more rigid systems operating elsewhere in the EEC which the City had been hoping to ease, to enable it to compete on equal terms, are slowly beginning to open up.

But the overriding impression is that harmonization of financial systems has been a long and tortuous road and that it will be some years before full compatibility of systems within the Community is reached.

The insurance industry has more reason than most for feeling disappointed with progress towards a full common market in insurance. For an industry that earns around two-thirds of its premium income outside this country, and is rather less constrained by regulations than in any other country in the Nine, insurance leaders, like the

British Insurance Association, have been vocal in condemning the absence of any progress despite initiatives taken by the United Kingdom Government to speed up negotiations.

Thus the 1973 establishment directive for non-life companies had much of the wind taken out of its sails by the requirement of individual members that insurance companies set up a separate legal entity in the Community should adhere to the same regulations and solvency standards as applied to national companies.

Admittedly there is nothing legally wrong in this interpretation of the freedom of services ruling of the European Court of Justice which said that this should apply where the services were not conditional on special national laws.

But certainly in this country insurers have viewed the decision as a blow against the spirit of the EEC, which they have always regarded as being there to provide them with more access to the European insurance market.

Added to some signs that other European countries have moved further towards protection—during troubles in the marine insurance market a couple of years ago France and Germany put obstacles in the way of placing marine business—it is hardly surprising that the British insurance industry has become disillusioned with developments to members of Lloyd's in particular have been worried that the establishment directive would in the end lead to an even more restrictive environment since without a branch network it would not have the freedom to set-up in other EEC countries.

A further important step towards harmonization, however, was taken a few months ago when the Department of Trade pushed regulations to make it easier for non-life companies, thereby bringing United Kingdom companies into line with the EEC directive.

These changes will be joined this weekend by a further series of changes of exchange controls, all minor in nature. For direct investment the amount of foreign currency which can be bought under the super-criterion will go up to £50,000, the cost of the project in the case of EEC schemes. In addition, the length of time over which the investment has to be justified will be increased to three years.

Indirect investment will still have to be financed out of the "investment currency pool"

Ronald Pullen and (below) David Blake conclude our examination of aspects of Britain's relations with the EEC at the end of the transitional period of membership

As one of the leading advocates of British membership of the European Economic Community, the City's high hopes at the time of entry five years ago have so far not been realised in any significant expansion of its activity in Europe.

Measured, for example, by the level of Britain's invisible exports, the EEC still accounts for only a small fraction of the Community's total at the beginning of the decade.

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(such as nationality requirements) elsewhere in Europe.

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Company law is one area where harmonization is about to have a profound effect on United Kingdom practice, although the first directive in force on accession has made little impact on business life. Legislation is already intended to comply with the second directive which requires the title of companies to be differentiated clearly as to whether they are private or publicly owned, but more sweeping changes are being considered.

Indeed, the entry of Britain (and Ireland for that matter) to the EEC has resulted in an important change of emphasis in the Commission's approach to harmonization. More stress has been laid on inter-country cooperation rather than trying to superimpose a new structure of detailed requirements on the existing legal systems.

The influence of the United Kingdom and in particular the British Bankers' Association led by Lord O'Brien, an ex-Governor of the Bank of England, appears strong in the Commission's thinking philosophy which aims to leave the main responsibility for controlling the liquidity and solvency of banks to individual members rather than laying down hard and fast rules that may not be applicable to several different states.

The first substantive move—in EEC terms at least—towards a common market in banking came last month with the adoption of a directive for banking activities in the EEC which has much more limited aim eliminating the most obstructive barriers between the laws of member states in the banking field.

While the directive appears to have plenty of teeth—licensing of credit institutions will be mandatory and will only be granted if certain liquidity and solvency ratios are achieved—it is in practice a fairly tame document and much work still has to be done before banking structures in the EEC are truly harmonized but a rough frame-

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Little progress on exchange controls

As the negotiations for Britain's entry into the EEC neared their climax in 1972, the original six member states were drawing up their own agreement on what was meant to be the next great step forward for the Community.

This was the building of an economic and monetary union in Europe, with free movement of capital, a common currency and (implicitly) the joint formulation of fiscal and monetary policy. It was to this scheme that the Chancellor of the time, Lord (then Mr) Barber, committed the United Kingdom to go "as far and as fast as anyone else".

The past five years have shown that to be one of the least onerous pledges made by any nation in exchange for a place in the Community. The ambitious schemes for monetary union have fallen apart.

Indeed, it is not until Sunday that the United Kingdom will even take its first step as a Community member towards the liberalization of the controls on capital movements required as part of the creation of a Community in which capital can move freely.

As so many other issues, before it became a member, the United Kingdom was a great deal more cautious about its attitude towards the EEC than it was after it joined. In the Budget of 1972, before the United Kingdom became a member of the EEC, the most significant step in exchange controls connected with the Community took place. This was to allow companies to spend £1m a year on direct investment in the Community. This investment was exempted from the normal rules governing such investment, which

are generally known as the "super-criterion". Under the super-criterion rules (which will be eased this weekend) investment abroad has to pay for itself in balance of payments terms within 12 months. This is coupled with a limit of £250,000 on the amount of money which could be invested using this channel, meant that little investment has taken place using the super-criterion rules. The 1972 relaxation was thus particularly valuable.

It did not, however, last long. By the spring of 1974 the pound was in trouble and a Labour government had been returned to power with a deep suspicion of overseas investment. In his first Budget, Mr Healey ended the £1m exemption for direct investment schemes.

This left the United Kingdom with only one concession to the easing of capital movements, which was that people moving abroad to other EEC countries were allowed to take some money with them to help them start their new life. This concession was introduced at the time of accession to the EEC.

These changes will be joined this weekend by a further series of changes of exchange controls, all minor in nature. For direct investment the amount of foreign currency which can be bought under the super-criterion will go up to £50,000, the cost of the project in the case of EEC schemes. In addition, the length of time over which the investment has to be justified will be increased to three years.

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where the exchange rate is much less favourable to sterling than in the normal markets. But the 25 per cent surrender rule, under which a quarter of the foreign currency bought for a project had to be coupled with the official rate of exchange, thus producing a net bonus of £200m a year to the reserves, is to be abolished.

These changes, and a further increase in the amount which might be taken abroad, will make it easier for companies to make little investment in the formal structure of controls, even though there was a firm commitment to remove them all by the end of the transition period. The reason this has not happened is that the European Commission has, in formal terms, given its permission to their continuation. Under Article 109 of the Rome Treaty, any state in balance of payments difficulties of a severe nature may introduce safeguards measures to protect its currency.

The United Kingdom has not been alone in using this escape clause. Both Italy and France have kept strict exchange controls in spite of the fact that they have been members of the

Community ever since its inception. Britain has been able to do the same because it has, until this year, been in continuous deficit on its balance of payments. It is only now that the criteria for continuing to maintain controls on capital exports.

The prospect of a surplus in 1978, continuing at least for some years, has done much to dent that argument, though it has not yet destroyed it entirely. In its talks with the Brussels commission, the British Government stressed that much of the apparent strength of the United Kingdom external position is still fairly fragile.

Much of the money which flowed in to the United Kingdom reserves of around £20,000m could just as easily flow out and no one knows how large the capital outflow from the United Kingdom would be if controls were removed.

That argument is bound to lose force if the United Kingdom continues to run a substantial surplus on its current account. However, the pressure for really major easing of the rules is not likely to be over-

whelming. This is for two main reasons.

First, the actual impact of exchange controls on the volume of foreign investment has been nothing like as great as their more extreme supporters have argued. In the years since Britain joined the EEC have seen a very sharp increase in British investment in the Community and elsewhere, some of it (as in the venture into European property) singularly ill-judged.

Companies wishing to invest abroad can still get money locally or pay for the investment out of unremitted profits. The second reason why pressure for easing the exchange controls has been less than once seemed likely to materialize is that the monetary union of which capital liberalization was meant to be the precursor remains as obstinately far from achievement as ever.

The "snake" of European currencies has ceased to be an EEC phenomenon and has become a Deutsche mark block, with the lira, the French franc and the pound remaining outside.

This month, four further United Kingdom additions to Dialog were announced: on geology, paper, textiles and information-handling science. Over 100 companies are listed in the membership directory of the International Information Association of the United States.

A new name in Britain this year is Info-Line, the government-backed information service company whose shareholders are the Department of Industry, the British Library, the Chemical Society, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Derwent Publications. Info-Line is preparing to launch its initial services next year and plans to link in to the forthcoming Euronet data network across Europe.

The British Library's own automated information service ("Blaise") began operation during the year. A network of five centres will permit local and access over a wide area; and access will be provided by bibliographic searches to be followed through at the terminal by an immediate request for a loan copy or photocopy of document from the library's lending division at Boston Spa.

What sort of information is on the end of the on-line links, anyway? References to virtually everything of significance published in virtually every branch of science and technology, plus much more besides. In many cases, an abstract of the content of the publication is given as well as the basic reference.

Among the older established services now available internationally via immediate computer access are: Chemical Abstracts; Inspect's abstracts in physics and astronomy; the abstracts of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux.

Other subjects covered by organizations exhibiting at the recent London meeting include energy, the environment, pollution, economics, psychology and social science.

Ordinary English is used in tracking down the required references, by typing in key words on the terminal to indicate the subject of interest. With a day's training and some experience on the terminal a typical search might take 10 minutes and cost between £5 and £10.

Lockheed Corporation in California claims to have the world's largest on-line information retrieval service in its DIAL system, which holds over 17 million references to reports and articles on technology, the humanities, social science, business and economics. Earlier this year the databases of two United Kingdom organizations—the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Inspect and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, Farnham Royal, were added.

Coming to terms with the information explosion

the pressing problems of science and society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improving the standard of home insulation

From Mr J. G. Sunley
Sir, It is encouraging to see that the British Government is following the lead given by the United States of America in introducing an energy conservation programme, but in one sector the action proposed is purely remedial and does nothing to correct the root cause.

We are told that a large proportion of the 321m sq ft of new housing to be built over the next four years will be spent on improving the insulation of council houses and that it is hoped that this will encourage the private sector to take similar steps. What is needed is a change in the building regulations requiring a much higher standard of insulation in new homes. At present this country lags far behind the requirements in many continental and Scandinavian countries in the insulation for new housing.

It can be argued that in a normal year new house building adds less than 2 per cent to the national housing stock but there seems to be little point in continually adding inadequately insulated dwellings to this stock knowing that they will have to be improved later either at the expense of the government or the private home owner.

If stricter regulations are brought into force in 20 years' time, when we may be in the midst of a severe energy

crisis, we shall have the advantage of having at least one third of our housing stock well insulated. Yours sincerely,
J. G. SUNLEY,
Director, Timber Research and Development Association, Stocking Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4ND.

From the City Architect and Planning Officer, City of Cambridge
Sir, The easiest way to conserve energy is to increase its price. In order to avoid hardship to domestic and essential users we should charge at one rate for a basic personal or process allocation and charge at a much higher rate for any use above the allocated amount. The uses which would be penalized would all be unnecessary and wasteful, conservation would be promoted and, in particular, high density, high energy consuming, high cost building would be less commercially attractive, leading to a lower demand upon services and transport.

An increase in price would quickly achieve savings no other method seems likely to achieve in the next decade.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MILNER,
The Guildhall, Cambridge CB2 3QJ.

A remedy for inflation

From Mr James Lunt
Sir, Mr E. J. Pentecost (December 19) joins issue with Professor D. S. Lees, December 13) over the cause of inflation, but both are right.

Inflation, rising price, is due to wages being too high relative to production. If total take-home pay increases, then come Friday the necessary money will have to be forthcoming somehow, and governments and banks are reluctant to foster unemployment by refusing to issue money.

The remedy is to bring down take-home pay by increasing tax on earnings, but not on profits, which are already taxed too much, and those are the very people who would be investing more even increase productivity so as to restore the wage/production ratio to where it should be.

The economy is quite unstable: left to itself wages will go on up and unemployment too. It is only by conscious, and conscientious, manipulation by government of the profit/earnings tax differential that stability and prosperity will be, or even can be, achieved.

Yours, &c,
JAMES G. LUNT, BSc, FRIC,
14 Arlington Road, Chislehurst, Essex SS3 1LW, December 19.

Environmental needs and the tunnel

From Dr Jonathan Wood
Sir, Before, all the environmental lobby rush to support John Whitehouse (December 19) in opposing the construction of a Channel tunnel and its rail links, perhaps they might consider the total effect on the counties of Surrey and Kent.

The bogey of "180 mph juggernaut" trains passing through our villages and towns at three-minute intervals, and the prospect of blocking the way to Paris with our English dead is good emotive stuff. But those who live near Gatwick and Heathrow suffer far more than this already and the Channel tunnel would ease the pressure of traffic at airports. The goods that might travel on the

trains are at present thundering through the villages of Kent and Surrey, and it is time we did something constructive to improve the environment.

The abandoned Channel tunnel plan had grown too grandiose. It was a scheme to build a canal and a railway, with locks, with water terminals and approach motorways. The 180 mph track for the rail link greatly increased the costs and environmental damage with only a marginal increase in benefit compared to a 125 mph route like that which now runs to Cardiff with little protest from the likes of Mr Whitehouse.

Shouldn't we re-examine in detail the building of a straight-forward rail designed primarily to take rail passenger

and goods traffic. Ideally there should be no access to the Channel rail link at any point south of the M25 motorway route.

Such a tunnel scheme could be started without the minimum of delay. It would be of great benefit to the country as a whole and could markedly improve the villages and towns of Surrey and Kent by getting some of the traffic out of our streets, and from our heads on the railways.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN G. M. WOOD,
27 Newbury Cottage, Dunsford Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey GU20 4XB, December 20.

Britain's industrial performance

From Mr Graham R. Nudd
Sir, As an expatriate engineer the present, concerning Britain's industrial performance is most interesting. Perhaps, the most surprising thing is not that the engineering "profession" is so dismal, but given the damaging climate in which it is operating, standing extremely low salaries and the Government's insistence on backing demonstrated losers, why has it survived at all?

However, I read in *The Times* (December 16) that all this will soon end. The Government will submit this problem by a new college course. Two serious problems exist in this bureaucratic solution.

First, how on earth can college teachers, most of whom know nothing at all about industrial enterprise, impart anything relevant to these "bright" students. In Britain, as elsewhere, the mechanics of engineering are well known, but Britain lacks enterprise, motivation and drive. Secondly, if these courses

should be successful and a superior engineer is produced, why should we believe he would stay in Britain. If all other professions sell their services to the highest bidder, won't these people understand the same basic economic principles?

In all likelihood this piece of nonsense will not help. What might be worth trying is, ensuring no engineering teacher is appointed without extensive industrial experience, making sustained efforts to recruit experienced engineers at government policy-making level, and establishing a reward system (in the pay checks) to ensure incentive. After all, England has found the crude mechanism of increased salaries to work well in other professions such as medicine, law, banking and the like: it could work in engineering.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM R. NUDD,
1355 Brinkley Avenue, Brentwood, California 90049.

Transfers exempt from CTT

From Mr Martin Davis
Sir, Mr David Marks (December 20) writes of the businessman, debarré by capital transfer tax, he would have us believe, from giving away his business; yet were the prospective donor to set up a trust for exclusively charitable purposes, to own and manage the business, were he to survive the gift into trust by a year, the transfer would be fully exempt from tax.

Yes, the CTT legislation traps those who seek to dispose of their power in favour of other private individuals; but it quite properly encourages gifts which can benefit the community. Yours truly,
MARTIN DAVIS,
25 Rodney Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1HX.

Business appointments

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr G. H. Fairclough, a director of Shell UK and managing director of Shell Chemicals UK, has been elected managing director of Shell UK. Mr W. C. Thomson, chairman of Shell Chemicals UK and a director of Shell UK, has been elected managing director of Shell UK. Mr A. Glimmerveen has been elected managing director of Shell UK.

The following have become directors of Shell UK: Mr J. D. Bond, Mr J. Brechley, Mr D. F. K. Carolan, Mr H. Dyon-Laurie, Mr G. W. Perkins, Mr R. B. Smith, Mr J. M. P. Taylor, Mr A. R. Towler and Mr R. J. White.

Mr A. V. Alexander is to assume full-time executive group management responsibilities as a director of Sedgwick Forbes Holdings and deputy chairman of Sedgwick Forbes. He ceases to be chairman of Sedgwick Forbes UK and its subsidiaries. Mr J. S. Martin, Mr A. M. P. and Mr J. S. Martin have gone on to the board of Sedgwick Forbes.

Mr Michael Butler has been made treasurer and deputy director-general, Finance Department, National Coal Board, from January 1. He succeeds Mr Douglas Wright, who is retiring.

Mr D. P. Tandy has become a director of Property Growth Assurance.

Mr Reg Conway has joined the board of British Relay (Electronics).

Mr E. Goodall, Mr J. Kooymann and Mr J. Moss have become members of the Furniture Development Council.

Mr P. Whitehead has joined the board of Sandhurst Marketing.

Mr Alex Smith has been made chairman and managing director of Upjohn.

Mr David Mason is to become managing director of Reliance Hosiery (Hull). He succeeds Mr Faraz Peters, who is retiring. Mr N. Gower has been made a director of Teddington Machine Parts.

Mr A. W. Furse is to be a director of Joseph Shakespear from January 1.

Mr Harry Horsby has been made director of the Process Plant Association from January 3.

Mr Peter Duxbury of Walker & Rice is to be the first chairman of the new, reconstituted British Fabric Association from April 1.

Mr L. H. G. Livingstone-Learmonth has been elected to succeed Mr W. T. Dunne as chairman of Tia Publications.

Mr Geoffrey Moss is the new chairman of Edbro (Scotland) after its acquisition by Edbro (Holdings).

Mr R. C. Huber has gone on to the board of A. D. International. Mr H. Bauernfeind is to retire.

Mr John Harper has been confirmed as assistant managing director, Western Telecommunications, from January 1.

Mr R. C. Nightingale, director of property investment of The Property Unit Trusts Group, is to be chief executive from January 1.

Mr N. Berry succeeds Mr J. D. Ogden as chairman of Futura Holdings on January 1.

Mr Guy Neely has become financial director and secretary of the National Water Council, on the same conditions. The proceeds will be passed on to the Northumbrian Water Authority for the Kielder Water Scheme.

British Steel Corporation has been granted a loan totalling £11.5m, both for 12 years at 8.6 per cent.

Finally, British Rail has received £7.2m—repayable in 12 years and bearing 8.45 per cent interest—which will cover about half the cost of special high-speed train depot.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bargain hunters buy short gilts and leave most shares alone

Share prices continued to edge ahead but in far less spectacular fashion than on Tuesday.

With some commentators casting doubts on the OECD forecasts for inflation and others pointing out the disadvantages to exporters of a strong pound, investors decided that renewed caution was the best policy.

The day's business threw up a variety of isolated features among the second-line stocks, but the preponderantly export-orientated leaders pitched saw little action, a trend which many dealers expect to be extended well into the New Year.

By 10 am the FT Index was 2.3 ahead on limited support for the new account. But this neglect of the "blue chips" soon took its toll and the index closed just 0.2 up at 490.6 in spite of a half-hearted attempt at a rally in mid-afternoon.

Up went E. Fogarty (pillows and quilts) 4p to 140p, a fortnight ago it was 120p. It announced a one-for-four scrip issue in preference shares with a 10.5 per cent coupon net equal to 15.9 per cent gross. Now the ordinary shares are just 141p. Apart from giving the group trustees status the preference shares should command parity. If so, shareholders will collect an extra 25p of preference share for every 100 ordinary shares they own. After the issue the ordinary dividend will still be 5.5 times covered by profits; and these are growing well.

Comment was good for rises of 10p to 235p for motor dealer Price & Clarke and of 3p to 78p for Rustenburg. In a generally dull brewery sector speculative demand made a feature of Buckenwood which closed 9p to the good at 146p.

While gold shares continued to go ahead, in some cases by as much as 50p, tin collapsed in line with the metal price. Worst hit were Gopeng,

which slumped 15p to 270p, Kiata Kellas where the fall was 13p to 182p, Geevor which dipped 15p to 490p, and South Croft which ended 5p down at 61p.

Among speculative stocks strong features were to be found in Brent Chemical which gained another 6p to 204p, United Scientific 4p to 209p, Vere Hotels 3p to 173p, on further small buying and Wilkinson Match which ended at 213p, after early strength on hopes of an all-out bid from the Allegheny Company of the United States.

On the other hand a couple of pence firmers at 864p after a brokers' circular, Shell 6p lower at 530p after a late dip and Siebens another 10p firmer at 274p on more speculative interest. But dealers take a cautious view of the last named feeling that the share is looking a little overpriced.

News that Tesco had boosted Christmas sales by 60 per cent did little for the share price at 45p just half a point better, while Sainsbury managed to add a couple of points for a close of 200p. Elsewhere in the food sector a good market at 208p, up 4p, but Associated Biscuits did not benefit from its United States acquisition, losing 2p to 86p.

Electricals had two good features in Pye, up 3p to 107p, and BICC which ended five points to the good at 117p.

Fading bid hopes left Repsolon Foods 7p lower at 132p while end of account profit taking clipped 2p from Madame Tussauds at 58p.

For once the clearing bank did not move in concert, with National Westminster at 250p and Lloyds at 222p closed 4p up but there was no movement from Midland at 300p and Barclays at 340p.

Press comment meant that the discount houses formed the strongest feature in the financial sectors. This strength was typified by gains of 10p to 40p from Lloyds, 5p to 275p from Alexander, 3p to 525p by Avon Harvey & Ross and 4p to 250p from Gillett Brothers.

Down at 290p for a couple of weeks Oil Exploration was suddenly back in favour with a spectacular rise of 14p to 306p. The word is that it is much rumoured talks with an American oil group are under way again though dealers think Government approval for any such deal would be hard to win. The group has just cut a new well in the Thelma Field.

In properties Estates Property added 6p to 83p while elsewhere H. Draxman closed 12p to the good at 114p. Conway Pope rose 6p to 65p, RST 6p to 65p, comment and Advant 9p to 252p.

Equity turnover on December 23 was 146.31m (7.446 last year). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were 1,060.

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EIB lends £91m to UK utilities

Six loans totalling £91.2m have been granted to various British public utilities by European Investment Bank, the EEC's long-term finance institution.

The largest, worth £52.3m, goes to the Electricity Council on a 15-year term at 8.65 per cent. The loan will help meet the construction cost of a power station at Heysham, Lancashire.

The EIB has also lent £19.8m to the National Water Council, on the same conditions. The proceeds will be passed on to the Northumbrian Water Authority for the Kielder Water Scheme.

British Steel Corporation has been granted a loan totalling £11.5m, both for 12 years at 8.6 per cent.

Finally, British Rail has received £7.2m—repayable in 12 years and bearing 8.45 per cent interest—which will cover about half the cost of special high-speed train depot.

Philip Harris looks to second-half rise

A disappointing half-year saw pre-tax profits of Philip Harris Holdings slip from £30,000 to £27,000, for the six months to September 30. Although the dividend was held at 1.3p net.

The board says that a high volume of orders has been received, but economic conditions have combined to give a decline in the average order value.

Baraouda jumps as dividends resumed

A return to the dividend list for the first time since 1970 crowns a year which brought shares of Baraouda Tea Holdings up from 10p last January to 105p yesterday. News of the group's proposed 10p dividend sent the shares up a further 5p to leave them at 110p.

The group's market popularity is based on the decision of the Bangladesh authorities to allow the repatriation of more of the group's profits.

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A 'small surplus' now in sight at Wilkins & Mitchell

By Tony May
A return to profits at Wilkins & Mitchell is definitely in sight. The first six months of the year is much the hardest time for this machine-tool and Servis washing-machine maker, and with turnover dipping from £207m to £203m, pre-tax losses for the half year to October 1 increased from £508,000 to £611,000. But this is in line with the board's expectations at the start of the year that the second half would be the time to witness an improvement in the group's fortunes.

Now the board says that the work done in the power press division and in the Servis domestic appliance division, although not showing itself in full profitability at this stage, gives cause for a greater

degree of confidence. Given reasonable market conditions in the domestic appliance division for the rest of the year, the year-end results from the United Kingdom operations should enable the group to show a small surplus.

This confidence is reflected in the increased interim dividend of 0.38p gross compared with 0.15p a year ago.

Over the whole of last year the group managed to cut its losses from £1.64m to £1.1m. The United Kingdom side made a profit of £191,000 but this was wiped out by losses of £712,000 from the Australian offshoot.

The group took rapid action with the Australian company, an action which is still continuing on a make-good basis. At home the domestic appliance division was ready for any upturn in the economy, while the machine tool side was continuing on a make-good basis. At home the domestic appliance division was ready for any upturn in the economy, while the machine tool side was continuing on a make-good basis.

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At home

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders of

International Standard Electric Corporation
8¼% Sinking Fund Debentures, Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 3.02 of the Indenture dated as of February 1, 1971, between International Standard Electric Corporation and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Trustee, the "Indenture", \$4,500,000 principal amount of International Standard Electric Corporation 8¼% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1986 (the "Debentures") have been called for redemption on February 1, 1978 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 8¼% per annum to the Redemption Date. Pursuant to section 3.03 of the Indenture, the Trustee has selected for redemption on February 1, 1978 the following Debentures, to wit:

\$1,000 COUPON DEBENTURES, EACH BEARING THE PREFIX LETTER "M"

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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